

## Britain has £331m trade surplus

North Sea oil has pushed Britain into the black with a £331m surplus on visible trade with the rest of the world in December. The news came yesterday as Mr Terry Burns, the Government's chief economic adviser, was cautiously predicting that economic growth this year could exceed the 1 per cent forecast by the Treasury in December.

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## Battle opens for lead-free petrol

Doctors in London launched the Campaign for Lead-free Air. The campaign presented evidence of a direct connection between still-births and malformations in babies and petrol-lead pollution from car exhausts.

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## Investigation in Scots rape case

An investigator will start gathering evidence today for a private prosecution against the alleged attacker of the Glasgow woman who was raped and slashed with a razor. The woman's lawyer said he would file a criminal case.

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## Mitterrand faces gas deal anger

President Mitterrand is facing angry accusations that his tough line on the Polish crisis has been invalidated by the big French contract to buy gas from the Soviet Union. Now a similar deal appears about to be signed with Algeria.

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## Telecom staff 'ineffective'

British Telecom engineers have been labelled ineffective by their chairman, Sir George Jefferson, who in a "state of the business" message speaks of serious overmanning, inflexible work practices and luxurious office accommodation.

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DARLING - you look quite naked without your T.M.S!



## Dons' severance terms agreed

The main provisions of the national redundancy scheme for university teachers have been accepted by the Government. It is expected that more than 5,000 staff will go over the next two years.

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## Water threat

Plaid Cymru is planning a campaign of civil disobedience, including party members refusing to pay their water rates, to force authorities in England to pay more for water from Welsh reservoirs.

Page 2

## Rubik puzzle

The Rubik Cube, puzzled over by millions was taken apart in the High Court during a hearing concerning the importation of a similar cube.

Page 2

## Bets pay-out

Pending an official decision, Ladbrokes, the bookmakers, have paid out on minor bets on Saturday's controversial Kempton Park race in which the hot favourite Little Owl failed to complete the course.

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## Ian Wells dies

Ian Wells, aged 17, the British chess player, died yesterday in a Rio de Janeiro hospital. He had been in a coma for six days after a swimming accident.

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Letters: On ethnic minority schooling, from Professor David Smith; hydroelectric power, from Sir Kenneth Alexander; Marlborough plate, from Mr Arthur Grimwade.

Leading articles: Blacking of newspapers; Europe's energy policy.

Features, pages 8, 10

A Tony Blair advice to the world: where rare metals with reassurance; 40 years of Desert Island Discs; a fair-blow revolution, by Suzi Stinkes.

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Lord Emswold, Mr Charles Parris.

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# Poland sets its terms for easing of martial law

Warsaw, Jan 25. — General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Polish Prime Minister, told Parliament today that martial law restrictions should be lifted by the end of February if the situation remained calm.

"Elements of martial law in industry," however, would have to be retained for a longer period, he added in a speech to the Sejm (Parliament), Warsaw radio said.

He was addressing the first full session of the Sejm held since martial law was imposed on December 13 and the military authorities cracked down on the Solidarity independent trade union movement.

The news agency PAP said General Jaruzelski gave a warning that martial law would be extended if the authorities faced serious opposition.

The report did not make it clear whether he meant that martial law itself would be extended when he spoke of wholly revoking its restrictions. "If unforeseeable events do not occur and no illegal actions are launched, then the restrictions of the state of war will be seriously cut back or wholly revoked by the end of next month," he said.

The radio said an item on changes in the Council of Ministers (Government), had been added to the Parliament's agenda, which also included legislation legalising martial law and accompanying decrees. These curbed civil freedom and provided for the suspension of Solidarity and the interment of about 5,000 political dissidents.

The radio quoted General Jaruzelski as saying that 1,750 people had been released from military camps since the end of the year. The total of 6,309 was the highest interment-2 was the highest official interment figure so far given.

The radio said a series of lively and frank debate during the Solidarity heyday, was in a subdued mood as deputies sat through General Jaruzelski's 100-minute address.

He declared that the decision to impose martial law was made in Warsaw and not elsewhere. Rejecting suggestions that the move had been forced upon Poland by the Kremlin, he said: "The truth is that the decision to introduce martial law was our decision."

He again denounced the West for imposing sanctions and criticising martial law, adding: "We will not stand before any self-appointed tribunals."

He singled out the United States; but added: "We are

not losing hope, however, that Reagan's policy will return to realism."

It was a matter of regret that other Nato countries were resorting to using economic weapons against Poland; they hurt the Polish people, not the Government.

He made no direct reference to appeals by intellectuals, political activists, and the Roman Catholic Church.

He acknowledged that there were differences of opinion between the authorities and the church, which claims the allegiance of the majority of the 35 million Poles. But he said church-state dialogue was continuing and differences should not cloud the overriding aim of national unity.

"Let all the difficulties connected with martial law be lifted as soon as possible." But that would depend on existing conditions, and possibilities for normal life and work in Poland.

"In any case, whether the calendar of external pressure will decide the future of Poland. By the end of next month the restrictions resulting from martial law should be lifted. The problem in industry is different. The elements of martial law must be kept in force for a longer period."

He said in the period preceding martial law there had been disastrous infringements of the inalienable function of the constitutional state authorities. The stability and security of the state had been undermined.

He accused extremists in Solidarity of having ignored calls for agreement by Parliament, individual deputies and the Government.

Those extremists had paralysed the authorities, spread hatred, continuously broken the law, imperilled the country's alliances and security, ruined the economy and abused confidence placed in them by millions of people.

Speaking of those who had been detained, he said nobody had been punished for their views. "Interment is a temporary measure. Those prepared to give up their activities against the socialist state could return to their homes and jobs."

He dismissed the idea that deporting opponents, but said if any wanted to settle abroad nobody would stop them.

Some officials of the old order who had been sacked for incompetence and corruption were trying to return to their posts, he said. "We cannot agree to that." —Reuters.

Other Polish news, page 6

## Gromyko brings Polish frost to Haig talks

From David Spanier, Geneva, Jan 25

Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, had a somewhat frosty answer ready on his arrival in Geneva yesterday for Mr Alexander Haig, the United States Secretary of State, who had announced that their talks opening tomorrow would concentrate on the Polish crisis.

"I have no intention whatsoever of discussing questions relating to Poland, or the domestic situation in Poland," Mr Gromyko, dressed in the open air and looking unusually fit, said crisply.

"I am certainly prepared to discuss questions concerning relations between the United States and the Soviet Union."

Leaving such preliminary scarring aside, the much heralded talks will, in fact, be brief. The two men will meet for two hours tomorrow morning then go their own ways for lunch and have a second two-hour session in the afternoon.

It is obvious that the subject of Poland cannot be avoided, but Mr Gromyko has given notice that he does not intend to come all this way just to listen to tough talk by Mr Haig.

Commenting on General Jaruzelski's speech to the Polish Parliament today, Mr Haig was cautious. "We are clearly interested in seeing that our three objectives are satisfied in the weeks ahead," he said. "That includes only lifting of martial law but the release of the prisoners. There was some mention of that today. We are also most anxious to find out if a negotiating dialogue has begun with the trade unions and the government."

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## Thalidomide man tries for Boat Race Blue

Mr Derek Ward-Thompson, aged 20, a physics undergraduate at Christ Church, and a victim of the drug thalidomide, is one of the four contenders this year for the coveted coxswain's seat in Oxford University's entry for the Boat Race (John Withers writes). Thalidomide left Mr Ward-Thompson with no arms; nevertheless, he has been a highly successful cox for the past seven years with the aid of some string attached to the wire rudder lines of his boat (above). He simply leans back and steers with his hands.

He does not consider himself a favourite for the dark blue sweater As a rugby referee he knows how to

blow the whistle and, as the son of an accomplished Durham cricketer, he has been brought up to the skills of the sport and has long nurtured a desire to steer to victory as many boats as possible. He considers his disability no inconvenience and can even swim, "not very quickly but strongly enough". That he is good does not seem in doubt. Last year he was in the final 12 of 30 "spray races" and this year he has seen off 16 rivals to reach the last four.

Will Mr. Ward-Thompson be worried if he is selected to cox the Oxford eight? "Not at all," he said. "I would treat it like any other race."



## Rail rebels reject plea to stop blacking papers

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

British Rail last night put the King's Cross blockade of News International newspapers to the test by inviting the company to send copies of The Sun to catch trains bound for Yorkshire and the North-east.

The move came six hours after the King's Cross workers voted to reject a formal recommendation by two local branch officers under the terms of a High Court undertaking and continue the blacking.

Mr Steven Forey, Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen branch secretary at the terminus, and Mr Dennis Cadywold, the union's departmental committee chairman, read brief statements to more than 300 railwaymen, asking for the boycott to be lifted.

The two men, who made their request in the presence of Mr Michael Baker, British Rail's chief solicitor, said the vote in favour of continuing the blacking was overwhelming, with only five against.

News International management which won the personal undertakings from Mr Forey and Mr Cadywold in the High Court on Sunday were last night consulting counsel on what to do in the wake of the rejection.

The move by British Rail last night prompted speculation that BR management might be prepared to risk a walk-out at King's Cross by disciplining

## Leak closes nuclear plant in US

Rochester, New York, Jan 25. — A steam tube ruptured in a primary cooling system at the Ginna nuclear power plant in Ontario, New York, today, releasing radioactive steam into the atmosphere, a federal official said.

Radiation was released for 93 minutes and the wind was blowing from the northwest at 14 mph, the National Weather Service said.

Mr Richard Sullivan, a spokesman for the Rochester Gas and Electric Co., which operates the plant, said that further releases "were not expected. Radiation checks showed the 'dose rates' to be no higher than background level, or what could be expected in nature."

"Surface contamination is not expected to occur," Mr Sullivan said. "The plant status is now stable and there is no danger to the public at this time."

The plant, located about 18 miles northwest of Rochester near the shore of Lake Ontario, was shut down and a "site emergency" declared.

"Area fire departments were mobilized, but non-essential personnel were evacuated from the plant site."

## Rowntree nibbles at biscuit firm

Rowntree, Macclesfield, the chocolate group, yesterday launched a bid for Huntley & Palmers, Britain's second largest biscuit manufacturer.

The Yorkshire group already owns a quarter of Huntley, but was immediately rebuffed by the Huntley board. They described the offer of cash and shares, which values the group at £75m, as wholly inadequate.

Rowntree had been "severely" rebuffed after Allied Lyons recent purchase of 4 per cent of Huntley. Allied became the favourite to launch a bid.

Rowntree, commanding more than 25 per cent of the British sweets market with brands such as Kit Kat and After Eight, is offering one of its own shares and 150p cash for every three ordinary shares in Huntley, valuing each Huntley share at 105p. Huntley's shares, which peaked at 85p in December, are quoted at 113p on the news, confirming that the market is expecting a rival bid.

Mr Kenneth Dixon, Rowntree's chairman, while denying the bid, was "responsive to Allied's stake," said. "Of course, we cannot ignore events in the marketplace."

He added that Rowntree has held a stake in Huntley for more than 10 years as a strategic investment, but felt the time had come for a closer association with the group.

## Timekeeper jailed for fraud

A judge spoke yesterday of "systematic malpractice" as a British Rail timekeeper was jailed for fraud after hearing how he had used a computer to create a system of false overtime claims.

Dandy, of Blackmoor, Walsby, Hampshire, admitted using a computer to create a system of false overtime claims, corruption by accepting £2 for signing a leave chit in favour of another man, and providing false information by issuing the leave chit. He was sentenced to 12 months in prison, suspended for a year.

Mr Stephen Parrish, for the defence of Dandy, told Portsmouth Crown Court that the fraud was regarded as "timekeepers' perks" and was known about by his superiors who must have committed in them. "It was a widespread practice in the industry," he said.

Dandy, who prepared his own weekly timesheets, submitted 182 sheets between January, 1977, and June 1980, of which 130 contained false overtime

claims. Mr Guy Boney, for the prosecution, said he received £2,857.32, which he has not earned, "an average of £800 a year was being added dishonestly to his wage packet."

Dandy, 40, admitted using a computer to create a system of false overtime claims, corruption by accepting £2 for signing a leave chit in favour of another man, and providing false information by issuing the leave chit. He was sentenced to 12 months in prison, suspended for a year.

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## Airlines agree increase in fares to America

Geneva, Jan 25. — The main airlines flying the long-haul North Atlantic route have agreed to a new system which will put up most fares from Europe booked under the Apex (28-days advance) system.

The new fares scheme, coming into operation between March 1 and May 15, was approved at a meeting in Miami, Florida, organized by the International Air Transport Association (Iata). The talks were attended by 27 airlines. Sir Freddie Laker's British Cypriot charter group did not take part.

An Iata spokesman in

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# Campaign to fight lead damage to babies

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Evidence of a direct connection between still births and malformations in babies and the amount of lead pollution from car exhausts was presented in London yesterday. The lead passes across the placenta from the mother to the infant during pregnancy.

Dr Fraser Alexander, a consultant paediatrician at Newcastle General Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne, described research showing that in heavily polluted urban atmospheres unborn babies were at high risk.

He is among the scientific and medical advisory board of an organization launched yesterday, the Campaign for Lead-free Air (CLEAR), which presented its most recent report of clinical and laboratory investigations into the hazards of using lead additives in petrol.

Fifteen eminent obstetricians, paediatricians, toxicologists, and psychiatrists are advising the campaign, which is also supported by more than 140 MPs from all parties.

A trust which includes Dame Elizabeth Ackroyd, Dr Jonathan Miller, Lord Avebury, the Bishop of Birmingham and Mr Clive Jenkins has been formed to fund the research and a programme of public education.

Eight environmental groups have come together to support the campaign, which is seeking the abolition of lead in petrol.

The campaign has five objectives.

## NEWS IN SUMMARY

### Yard holds IRA bomb suspect

A man in his twenties was being questioned by Scotland Yard detectives last night in connection with IRA bomb attacks in London (Richard Ford writes from Belfast).

The man was held in the Roman Catholic Short Strand area of Belfast on Sunday by uniformed police. He was taken to London for further questioning in what is regarded by police as a significant arrest.

It is understood, however, that the man is not connected with the most recent bomb attacks in London, involving explosions in Oxford Street, Dulwich and Woolwich.

Dual sources said last night that the arrested man was not Gerard Turpie, who escaped from the high security wing of Brixton prison in December, 1980 (Stewart Tandler writes).

It is understood he will be charged within the next few days with conspiracy to cause explosions in London, but the charges do not relate to the attacks just before Christmas.

### DHSS pulls out of jobs scheme

Mr Hugh Rossi, Minister for the Disabled, is being forced to defy a government scheme giving preference to disabled people because of Civil Service job cuts, a Labour MP said yesterday (Pat Healey writes).

Mr Alfred Morris, a former Minister for the Disabled, described as extremely worrying, the decision of the Department of Health and Social Security to pull out of the job release scheme, under which disabled men can retire at 60 and claim greater benefits, provided their employers take on an unemployed person. Able-bodied men can retire at 63.

### Jetstream boost for plane jobs

British Aerospace yesterday unveiled an aircraft aimed at winning a larger share of the growing United States and European business and commuter market when the Jetstream 31 turbo-prop was ceremonially piped into a hangar at its Prestwick plant.

It will ensure employment for up to 2,000 British Aerospace Scottish division workers, with up to 1,500 more in United Kingdom suppliers.

Sir Austin Pearce, the chairman, said that if the company had not rejected an earlier financial aid package, the project, "the end of Prestwick as an aircraft manufacturing centre was very near".

### Six jailed over £12m drugs ring

Six men who distributed drugs in a £12m international cocaine smuggling ring were yesterday jailed for a total of 48 years at Lewes Crown Court.

The six men all originally denied supplying cocaine between 1974 and 1981.

Colin Booth, aged 35, of Vauxhall Road, changed his plea to guilty, along with five other men, to supplying cocaine to a group of men who were known as the "Coke Club".

Booth was sentenced to 12 years, while the other five were sentenced to between 10 and 15 years.

### Dead actor had money problems

Mr Ronald Lewis, the actor, killed himself with an overdose of drugs, a Westminster coroner's court decided yesterday after hearing evidence from his brother that Mr Lewis was having financial difficulties and living on social security.

## Local Tory favoured to fight Hillhead

By Alan Hamilton

The local Conservative association in Glasgow, Hillhead, is choosing a candidate to fight Mr Roy Jenkins in the forthcoming by-election, caused by the death of Sir Thomas Galbraith, who held the seat for the Tories for 33 years.

All the other main parties have named their candidates for the contest, for which no writ has yet been issued but which is thought likely to be called for March 18, conveniently between a Budget containing some of the Government's new tax measures and the start of campaigning for the Scottish regional elections.

Officials of the Hillhead Conservative and Unionist Association are following the usual practice of interviewing all candidates on the short list at a meeting tomorrow night. They will then invite the two leading contenders to return the next night and ask them to address the selection committee before a final choice is made.

The favoured contender is Mr Leonard Turpie, aged 47, a Glasgow solicitor and leader of the 24-strong Conservative opposition on Strathclyde Regional Council. Mr Turpie's candidature has been in some doubt in recent weeks because of publicity given to allegations of malpractice in the Glasgow law firm of which he is a partner.

Last month, Mr Turpie's firm was brought before the Scottish Solicitors' Discipline Tribunal and found guilty of a breach of the solicitors' account rules governing the use of clients' money held in trust. Mr Turpie himself was found guilty, but no penalty was imposed, while other partners in the practice were fined. His wife, Mrs Deirdre Turpie, who is also a partner, was suspended.

An appeal against the ruling is to be heard before the Court of Session in Edinburgh, it is pending.

The local party is anxious to have a strong contender to fight the SDP challenge from Mr Jenkins, although opinion is not so far public. It is predicted that the Conservatives will lose their last seat in Glasgow by a considerable margin. Labour's prospective candidate is Mr David Wiseman, a Strathclyde social worker.

The other leading contenders on the Conservative short list are Mr William Aitken, an insurance company property superintendent and leader of the Tory opposition group on Glasgow District Council, whose ward of Anniesland covers half of the Hillhead constituency; and Mr John Mackenzie, a former director of the Conservative Central Office in Scotland, who now edits the Church of Scotland's monthly magazine, *Life and Work*.

Labour Party sources in Glasgow yesterday indicated that they would welcome a strong Conservative candidate, that would help to stave off the Social Democratic challenge.



International flavour: Mr Aurelius Fernandez, the American Embassy press attaché, accepting a haggis on behalf of the ambassador from pipers of the 2nd Battalion, The Scots Guards. They are raising money for charity.

## Toxteth ethnic centre facing loss of grant

By Lucy Hodges

Liverpool council is poised to withdraw its £25,000 grant from the Charles Wootton Centre, the adult education centre for black people in Toxteth, which it is feared will lead to its closure.

The decision, made by the council's services working party last week, is causing alarm in Liverpool, the scene of the worst riots of last summer.

Mr Paul Sommerfeld, senior community relations officer, said yesterday: "I find it quite incomprehensible. One would have thought, given the events of last summer, that the city council would be tripping over itself to put more resources into the area, particularly when it comes to education".

Observers suspect that the decision to withdraw the grant, which goes before the full council tomorrow, is not unconnected with the fact that the centre is the headquarters for the Liverpool 8 Defence Committee, a group which has been assisting the defence of people facing charges arising from the riots, as well as meeting government ministers to discuss the district's problems. The committee has

called for the dismissal of Mr Kenneth Oxford, Chief Constable of Merseyside.

Set up about eight years ago, the centre was named after Charles Wootton, a black who was killed in the Liverpool race riots of 1981.

The working party which took the decision to withdraw the grant, which pays for salaries and operating costs, was chaired by Sir Trevor Jones, the Liberal leader of the council.

Home Office ideas on reforming of the system for handling complaints against the police were attacked from two sides yesterday. Mrs Margaret Simey, chairman of the Merseyside Police Authority, described the scheme as "lamentable pre-riot" (Our Home Affairs Correspondent writes).

The Home Office scheme, which goes before the Government's police advisory board today, involves the use of an independent assessor of police investigations into serious complaints and a conciliation process for minor ones.

Mr Jardine added: "We are opposed to any further tinkering with the existing complaints system".

## SDP 'not interested in the needy'

By Our Political Staff

Members of the Limehouse Declaration, a group of Liberal MPs in Brighton, are to challenge the agreement on the distribution of parliamentary seats between the Social Democrats and Liberals in Sussex.

Under a deal ratified on Saturday the Liberals are to fight eight of the 15 seats in the county at the next election and the SDP seven. Yesterday it emerged that under the agreement the SDP will contest both the Brighton seats, Pavilion and Kempdown.

The two Brighton Liberal associations have decided to protest to Mr David Penhaligon, Liberal MP for Truro, who was appointed earlier this month as his party's national spokesman, to deal with local difficulties over the division of seats.

Liberals in Hastings and Hove and Crawley are also thought to be unhappy that under Saturday's accord those seats will be fought by the SDP.

Mr Bryan Magee, the latest MP to leave the Labour Party, predicted yesterday that the truce agreed at Bishop's Cleeve would not stop the flow of defections from the party.

The accord had ceded to the left all the gains it had made during the past three years, gains that had brought Labour to its present intolerable position, Mr Magee said. The MP was confirming that he wants to fight his seat, Waltham Forest, Leyton, for the Social Democratic Party.

What Bishop's Cleeve means is that the fighting stops on the present battle lines. I could not accept peace on the Bishop's Cleeve basis. I could only have stayed in the party if it had returned to the position it had abandoned over the last three years.

Mr Magee is to sit for the time being as an independent Labour MP, but he wants to join the SDP. Rather than join the party nationally, as Mr John Roper, the SDP Chief Whip, has suggested to him, he wishes first to have discussions with Waltham Forest SDP and expects to be invited to see its officials soon.

He said that although he certainly wanted to stand again in Leyton, if he joined the SDP nationally he might seem to be putting pressure on the local party.

Mr Magee said that there was a tide of change within Labour towards the left, and if there was a pause in that after the Bishop's Cleeve conference it would be only temporary.

He added that extreme left-wing infiltration in the party had been reflected in his constituency party. He spoke of what he called his management committee's "most uncivilized" behaviour on Friday night when he told it of his decision to leave.

He had been astounded when, immediately after he had made his announcement, left-wingers moved that he should leave the meeting. The motion was carried by a tiny majority but the left-wingers had then returned home to bed before the crash, will face disciplinary proceedings.

BR knows that signal failure did not lead Mr Walton to the same line as a stationary parcels train, which was loading and unloading at Crofton at 1.20 am on January 16.

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Overseas selling prices

Australia 85c, Bahrain 80c, Canada 85c, Hong Kong 85c, India 85c, Japan 85c, Korea 85c, Malaysia 85c, New Zealand 85c, Singapore 85c, South Africa 85c, Taiwan 85c, Thailand 85c, United Kingdom 85c, USA 85c, West Germany 85c, Yugoslavia 85c.

Local SDP parties will be invited to send representatives to the first conference in Crofton, south London, on March 13, which will discuss decentralization in government and in the party. Members of the party's national steering

committee are to be asked to attend, but to listen rather than to speak.

The society intends to work closely with like-minded Liberals and has held discussions with members of Arena.

Others on the provisional committee include: Mr Tyrrell Burgess, who will chair the Crofton conference; Mr Anthony Lester, QC, former special adviser to Mr Roy Jenkins as Home Secretary; Mrs Julia Neeson, Rabbi of the South London Liberal Synagogue, and Miss Sue Slipman, former president of the National Union of Students.

Members of the provisional committee include many figures previously active in the Labour and Liberal parties. The society's formation could have been boosted by the fact that the Fabian Society's decision last June, after a ballot, to deny full membership and voting rights to social democrats.

The chairman is the former Labour peer, Lord Young of Dartington, formerly Mr Michael Young, president of the Consumers' Association, founding chairman of the

## The cube is laid bare in court

By David Nicholson-Lord

The multicoloured cube that harbours adults, aggrandizes precocious children and poses the latest threat to family morale in the West yesterday had its innermost workings laid bare in the High Court.

Pieces of Dr Erno Rubik's many-faceted cube lay some-what forlornly about Court 37 as its Hungarian producers sought to prove their similarity to an alleged copy, made in Singapore and imported by a British company, Dallas Print Transfers, of Brixton Road, London.

The case, the newest variation on the billions of combinations already credited to the cube, is the culmination of proceedings for copyright infringement which began last March. Damages are being claimed against Dallas for its distribution of a rival version known as the Wonderful Puzzle.

According to Mr Michael Lyndon-Stanford, QC, for Dallas, the Hungarian state cooperative, and the official British distributors, Ideal Toys, more than 200,000 Rubik cubes had been sold in Britain by early last year. But perhaps 40,000 Wonderful Puzzles had also been imported.

Mr Lyndon-Stanford described the cube as a toy of "some intellectual standing", superbly designed both to confound and entertain. It was said to have reduced mathematicians to tears.

It had been marketed by an "unusual and cleverly engineered" publicity campaign, he said. No advertising space had been bought; instead, cubes had been sent to disc jockeys, artists, producers in newspapers, and Dr Rubik had appeared on television.

The culmination of the campaign, Mr Lyndon-Stanford said, was the featuring of the cube on a Saturday morning BBC television programme early last year. Interest, already quite considerable, became tremendous.

In response to a comment from Mr Justice Dillon that it was a "good thing to have your commercials on the BBC", Mr Lyndon-Stanford agreed that it was certainly clever.

By that time, however, rumours were rife that the cube was being copied, and warning notices were placed in trade magazines. But Dallas, at a gift fair in Birmingham and went ahead with sales. In March proceedings were begun which have since led to almost a dozen court hearings.

Not only was the black and gold packaging of the two cubes extremely similar, Mr Lyndon-Stanford said, but the size, shape and hollowness of lugs, connecting elements and rotating members had also to be considered.

Asked later whether he knew how the Rubik cube worked, Mr Justice Dillon said he did not. "But I do not see that matters", he added.

The case continues today.

## Science report Nile floods theory for mud in the Med

By the Staff of "Nature"

Torrential flooding of the Nile Valley between 8,000 and 9,000 years ago has been advanced as the explanation for a distinctive layer of mud deposits in cores taken from the bottom of the eastern Mediterranean. The development is important because it links the formation of the mud, known as sapropel, with the postglacial climate of Equatorial Africa, Mediterranean and the eastern Mediterranean.

The authors of the research, all from Paris, have nothing to say about the possibility that 1,000 years of glacial floods in the Nile Valley may somehow be linked with the biblical account of Noah's flood. The oceanographers responsible are Marine Research Service of the Musée National d'Histoire Naturelle and Vladimir Nesteroff, Philippe Olive, and Colette Vergnaud-Grazzini, all from the Université Pierre et Marie Curie.

The sapropel mud deposits of the Mediterranean have long been a puzzle. Although apparently formed in deep water, they are unusual in that they contain many organisms ordinarily found in surface waters which are devoid of deep-living fossils. It seems agreed that sapropel muds are formed only in warm seas in which the bottom water has become stagnant and too salty to support ordinary forms of marine life.

Hitherto, the most common explanation of the sapropel muds has been that the Mediterranean was flooded with fresh water from the melting of the glacial ice in Eurasia towards the end of the most recent Ice Age. On that view, the mud should have been formed about 13,000 years ago.

The group from Paris has shown that explanation to be false by a careful dating of the carbonate deposits above and below the latest layer of mud in a core of three kilometres to the south-west of Cyprus. By the time the mud was deposited the flow of melt-water from the Black Sea should long since have ceased.

Further support for that explanation comes from an analysis of pollen in the mud, which is characteristic of the temperate climate of the littoral of the eastern Mediterranean 8,000 years ago. A similar explanation is put forward for the sapropel mud, laid down between 10,500 and 11,700 years ago.

The reasons for the stagnation of the eastern Mediterranean are inferred from the progressive change in the ratio of oxygen isotopes in the two mud layers, which seems to go back to the climax of the most recent glaciation 18,000 years ago. Although usually an indicator of temperature, the variations recorded are too great to be explained as simply as that.

For that reason it is suggested that towards the end of the most recent glaciation, when the input of energy from the Sun would have been greater than at present because of changes in the Earth's orbit about the Sun, there was a marked increase in the Eastern Mediterranean more rapidly than at present, with the result that its salinity increased.

Soon afterwards, the argument goes, heavy rains in central Africa produced Nile floods discharging more than two and a half times as much water as those known in the Nile before the Aswan Dam was built.

Source: *Nature*, vol 295, p182, 25 January 1982.

## RAIL CRASH 'HUMAN ERROR'

British Rail officials

investigating the Crofton rail crash which indirectly led to the controversial allegations in the Sun newspaper about Aslef drivers believed that the incident was caused by human error.

The outcome of the private BR inquiry now rests on the evidence of Mr Steven Walton, aged 28, the train driver who lost a leg in the accident, and the guard, Mr Michael Weatherham, aged 40. Both are still too ill to be questioned.

BR has decided that Mr Nicholas Rowles, aged 22, the assistant driver on the train who clocked out of duty and then returned home to bed before the crash, will face disciplinary proceedings.

BR knows that signal failure did not lead Mr Walton to the same line as a stationary parcels train, which was loading and unloading at Crofton at 1.20 am on January 16.

But investigators have discounted Mr Rowles' absence as one of the causes. They are certain that human error was involved.

Overseas selling prices

Australia 85c, Bahrain 80c, Canada 85c, Hong Kong 85c, India 85c, Japan 85c, Korea 85c, Malaysia 85c, New Zealand 85c, Singapore 85c, South Africa 85c, Taiwan 85c, Thailand 85c, United Kingdom 85c, USA 85c, West Germany 85c, Yugoslavia 85c.

Local SDP parties will be invited to send representatives to the first conference in Crofton, south London, on March 13, which will discuss decentralization in government and in the party. Members of the party's national steering

committee are to be asked to attend, but to listen rather than to speak.

The society intends to work closely with like-minded Liberals and has held discussions with members of Arena.

Others on the provisional committee include: Mr Tyrrell Burgess, who will chair the Crofton conference; Mr Anthony Lester, QC, former special adviser to Mr Roy Jenkins as Home Secretary; Mrs Julia Neeson, Rabbi of the South London Liberal Synagogue, and Miss Sue Slipman, former president of the National Union of Students.

Members of the provisional committee include many figures previously active in the Labour and Liberal parties. The society's formation could have been boosted by the fact that the Fabian Society's decision last June, after a ballot, to deny full membership and voting rights to social democrats.

The chairman is the former Labour peer, Lord Young of Dartington, formerly Mr Michael Young, president of the Consumers' Association, founding chairman of the

committee are to be asked to attend, but to listen rather than to speak.

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## Sabotage query raised by gas protesters

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

Opponents of the oil and gas storage plants in Canvey Island complained yesterday that the possibility of sabotage had been left out of official investigations of risk to residents near by.

Mr Conrad Schiemann, QC, leading the case for local councils, said: "All sides agree that deliberate sabotage is a risk, but no one has sought to quantify it. You may feel that this risk alone may be larger than any of the others."

He was speaking on the first day of a resumed public inquiry on the island about the possible closure or restriction of the British Gas methane terminal which reaches out to the Thames Estuary from the south of Canvey.

Sir Bernard Braine, the Conservative MP whose Essex, South-East, constituency includes the island, said: "Since this installation has already been the subject of a serious sabotage attempt by the IRA, it is proper for us to point out that the question of sabotage is very real when you have got hazardous installations close to each other and close to a residential area."

He said that the omission of sabotage was one of the reasons for an investigation that has led to safety clearance by the Government's Health and Safety Executive. "There is a wanton disregard of what could happen to the islanders in the event of a major spillage of gas leading to the formation of a vapour cloud."

"Nor is any attention paid to human and psychological reactions in the event of

disaster, or to the possibility of sabotage and the enormous havoc that could wreak in our tinder box situation."

Mr Andrew Rankin, QC, for British Gas, said that it would strongly resist pressure to disclose its security arrangements at public hearings. But it was willing to discuss them at a closed meeting at which all objects could be represented by Mr Schiemann.

Mr Alan de Piro, QC, the independent inspector appointed by ministers, said: "I find it very difficult to see how this tribunal can possibly, with any usefulness, assess the risk of sabotage. We must know that there is a risk of sabotage. How I can deal with it I do not know, but I will think about it."

Mr Schiemann said that many obscure possibilities which should be included in an examination of risk had been left out of the executive's reports. Earthquakes may sound rather old, but in fact there was one here 100 years ago.

He claimed that official figures showed that the risk to the 34,000 island inhabitants of being killed in an accident at one of the storage plants was 10 times as great as that of dying in a car crash.

Mr Rankin made clear that British Gas was determined to fight for a clean bill of health for the terminal because of the wider implications of closure. If the terminal is closed, what will happen to other installations, and what would be the cumulative effect on the economic life of the country?

## Plaid plans campaign over water charges

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

Plaid Cymru is planning a campaign of civil disobedience aimed at forcing authorities in England to pay more for the water they extract from Welsh reservoirs. From March 1, St David's Day, thousands of Plaid members, including top party officials, will refuse to pay their water rates.

The campaign will be run on similar lines to that which forced the Government to change its mind on the Welsh language television channel.

Throughout the campaign the party will be careful to dissociate itself from the extremists who earlier this month planted a bomb outside the Birmingham headquarters of Severn-Trent Water Authority. The submission of beautiful valleys to create reservoirs to supply England had been an emotive issue in the principality and many people not connected with the Welsh Nationalist Party resent paying more for their water than is paid in England.

The discontent has been exacerbated by the scrapping of the Water Charges Equalisation Act, which redressed some of the difference to the extent of £3m a year.

Blasauw Ffestiniog, with an annual average rainfall of 97in pays 30p in the pound, compared with 14p in the pound paid by a citizen of Birmingham, with 26in a year.

The Welsh Water Authority has asked the central authority to pay £4.5m, three times the present charge, for the water it takes from Welsh reservoirs, but that has been rejected. Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, and Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, are now involved in the dispute.

Those proposals, however, fall far short of Plaid aspirations. The party wants England to pay 20p for every thousand gallons it takes. That would mean £18m, or even free water for the Welsh.

Mr Dafydd Williams, secretary of Plaid Cymru, said yesterday: "It is scandalous that people in Wales pay more for water than is charged in Birmingham. The situation also contributes to our unemployment, as the charges discourage potential investors from moving in."

Mr Elfed Roberts, party organizer for Merioneth, is already refusing to pay his water charges and said he was prepared to go to prison. "The final demand was sent to me in English, so I am ignoring it, but when I receive a demand in Welsh I shall explain that I am taking a stand on a matter of principle," he said.



That floating feeling: Michael Crawford at the Palladium yesterday

## The tightrope to success

The musical *Barnum*, starring Michael Crawford as the American showman, Phineas T. Barnum, is to run until February, 1983, making it the longest running show at the London Palladium in the theatre's 72-year history (Christopher Warman writes).

*Barnum* has broken all records at the Palladium with its circus razzamataz since its opening last June. Yul Brynner in *The King and I* held the previous record, with a 13-month run.

Michael Crawford, who trained for many months for the part and is insured for £3m, walks the high wire, works on the trampoline and trapeze, juggles, tumbles, clowns, sings and dances in what he describes understandingly as the most demanding part he has ever played.

In some 270 performances he has fallen off the high wire only once, but he has had cuts on his feet, blisters, bruises and torn muscles, and remains a stone

below his normal weight. "But I love every minute of it," he said yesterday at a reception to announce the record-breaking run. "I look forward to it every night."

The management nevertheless realizes that the performers, some 50 in all including the band, which marches on to the stage, need a rest. So the show, which has so far taken about £2.5m at the box office, is to close for a month in June so that the entire cast can take a holiday.

## NEWS IN SUMMARY

### Man caught in clash of horsepower

Brian Calam's horse-drawn trips around York landed him in trouble, with a Victorian historic architecture to sight-seers in the carriage his horse trotted into an oncoming car.

York magistrates were told yesterday that Calam, aged 36, had driven a motor car parked in Goodrange and into a Ford Fiesta coming the other way.

Mr Michael Taylor, for the defence, said: "The two were going for the same space at the time. You would have thought that most motorists would have given way to a horse and cart, but not this one."

Calam, of Huntington Road, York, admitted driving a horse-drawn carriage so as to damage a motor car and was fined £10.

### Dearer power in South-east

The South Eastern Electricity Board proposes to increase charges by up to 9½ per cent from April 1, according to the electricity consultative council.

They claim they have been told the increase will put 33p on the weekly bills of the average consumer using 900 units of electricity a quarter.

A spokesman for the watchdog group described the increase as "fairly moderate or balanced". It was not something they favoured, but below the current inflation rate.

### Cartoonist is fined £700

Frank Dickens, the Fleet Street cartoonist, aged 49, of the Barbican, was fined £700 at Horseferry Road magistrates' court yesterday, and banned for four years for driving with excess alcohol in his blood. The court was told he had been drinking heavily for five days after being served with divorce papers. He pleaded guilty.

### Cannabis haul

Cannabis valued at £750,000 has been seized by police and customs officials at Avonmouth docks, Bristol. The haul was found in a car on board a ship which was believed to be on its way to Denmark. Several people were arrested aboard.

### Dodgem buses

Vandals badly damaged eight buses and lorries when they used them as dodgems at the Wallace School of Driving, in Nottingham, yesterday.

## Heseltine actions 'could deter councillors'

By David Walter

Actions taken by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, could deter people from standing for election to local councils, Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, said in the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Mr Heseltine had implicitly accused Norwich City councillors of "wilful misconduct" in disobeying the right-to-buy provisions of the Housing Act, 1980. Lord Denning said that charges laid open to surcharge. "If they are going to be sued here, there and everywhere no one would stand as a councillor."

Lord Denning, sitting with Lord Justice May and Lord Justice Kerr, was hearing arguments on behalf of the

Norwich Council for the second day.

It is appealing against the High Court judgment which found Mr Heseltine had acted within the law last month, taking over the city's housing to speed the sale of homes to tenants.

Mr Heseltine took action against the council under section 23 of the 1980 Act. Mr Nigel McLeod QC, for Norwich, said that a key word in that section was "practicable". Mr Heseltine had judged Norwich without making into account local circumstances that delayed the processing of tenants' applications to buy.

The hearing continues today.

## New airport 'a boost to population'

By Michael Bailey, Transport Correspondent

An enlarged Stansted airport would attract an extra population of up to 300,000, equivalent to a city the size of Nottingham, a leading planning consultant estimated last night.

That population, however, is unlikely to be housed in a new "jet city" sprawling over 26 square miles of Essex countryside, Mr Ian Fulton told the Regional Studies Association in London. Enlightened planning could ensure that population growth took place in existing towns and cities within reach of Stansted, revitalizing them.

The main ones would be the London districts of Camden, Islington, Lambeth and the towns of Bedford, Corby, Luton, Milton Keynes, Northampton, and Peterborough. "If Stansted was developed fully as London's third airport it would be handling substantially more traffic than Heathrow, 50 million passengers a year, against 38 million by the turn of the century, and would have become Britain's largest employment generator bar none," Mr Fulton said.

With the decline of its main airports, Britain had already become an air-trading nation, dependent on an efficient airport system at London for its economic survival. Heathrow, handling 14 per cent of Britain's overseas trade as well as 28 million passengers a year was the 1980s equivalent of the Port of London in the 1880s.

London was a natural focal point for world air routes but to capitalize on future growth airport capacity had to be provided in the right place, Mr Fulton said. Alternatives to Stansted put forward did not fulfil that requirement. Severnside and Maplia were both too far from London, which would continue to be the main traffic generator for international traffic, despite a decline in its domestic population.

For that reason the development of regional airports was not a viable alternative. A fifth terminal at Heathrow was a minimal solution which would not eliminate the need for Stansted eventually, resulting in a higher ultimate cost.

## Girl fell to death after gang rape

Miss Cathy Lynch, aged 21, who was haunted by the memory of a gang rape, plunged to her death from a block of high-rise flats last October, two years after her ordeal, an inquest in Liverpool was told yesterday.

Miss Lynch was forced to have sexual intercourse with four intruders who burst into her boy friend's flat. Mr Paul Jamieson, her twin brother and another friend were held in an adjoining room while the men raped her one by one, the court heard.

But Miss Lynch hid the secret torment from her parents for two years because she was ashamed to tell them.

Finally she was seen walking from her home with a "vacant look in her eyes" and 15 minutes later police found her badly injured body at the foot of a 14-storey tower block half a mile away.

It was only when police searched Miss Lynch's bedroom at her parents' home in Avondale Road, Wavertree, Liverpool, that they discovered her secret.

They found a letter addressed to Mr Paul Jamieson's twin brother, Mr Mark Jamieson, aged 22, which read: "Why you have not the courage to look me in the eyes, I don't know. After all, you have been looking me in the eye for two years, since the time you sat with Chris and Paul in an adjoining room and allowed me to be raped."

Miss Lynch's father, Mr Joseph Lynch, aged 50, a boilermaker, told the inquest: "Until that letter was opened we had no idea she had been raped. If only we knew what was inside we might have been able to help."

Miss Lynch, who was in bed with Mr Paul Jamieson in a first-floor flat at Princess Road, Liverpool, the inquest was told. His twin brother arrived home from a club at 2.45 am with a friend, Mr Christopher Forest, and then four men in their late 30s broke into the flat.

Det Sergeant Peter Royle, who was involved in the hunt for the four rapists, said the intruders claimed they were searching for a man called Eddie after a drugs deal which had gone wrong. "They searched the flat and in doing so went into the room where Cathy and Paul were in bed," he said.



Miss Lynch: Hid her torment for two years

"They pulled back the bedclothes. At this time neither of the couple were wearing any clothes. The four men then left the flat."

They then returned and took it in turn to have sexual intercourse with Miss Lynch against her will, Sergeant Royle said.

Sergeant David Lancaster-Smith said Miss Lynch had been treated by a psychiatrist. She was a possible schizophrenic and drug abuser and was a suicide risk.

Mr Roy Barter, the Merseyside Coroner, who recorded an open verdict, said there was inconclusive evidence to decide whether she fell accidentally or jumped.

□ Detective Constable George Hall, aged 37, accused of rape, who was found dead just before a gas blast wrecked his home, was depressed about the forthcoming case but did not seek help, his commanding officer, Chief Superintendent James Carlin, head of Doncaster police division, said yesterday. Recent publicity about rape had not helped.

Mr Hall, of Queen's Crescent, Bawtry, near Doncaster, was due to appear in court on February 2 accused of rape and assault. He had been suspended from duty. An inquest will open today.

□ Police hunting a rapist who attacked a girl aged 17 who accepted a lift were trying yesterday to trace more than 100 partygoers.

But police said they were having difficulties because some of the people at the party, at Barton Mills, near Mildenhall, Suffolk, were unidentified gatecrashers.

## Two admit trade in unfit meat

Meat from a knacker's yard, unfit for human consumption, found its way into shoppers' baskets and eventually on to dinner tables, Leicester magistrates were told yesterday.

The health risks involved in eating the meat, some of which bore false stamps of approval, must have been considerable, it was stated.

Health officials found lamb carcasses beside excrement-contaminated horse tails in a freezer at a Leicestershire butcher's shop. The owner later claimed the tails were for a friend who made rocking horses.

Francis Fensome, aged 58, of Spinney Crescent, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, and Peter Fletcher, 41, of Stuart Street, Dunstable, were remanded on bail for four weeks for reports after admitting handling meat unfit for, but intended for, human consumption.

The men, who had a butcher's shop in Bedford Road, Houghton Regis, also admitted failing to take adequate steps to protect meat from the risk of contamination and to ensure cleanliness and hygiene of the premises.

Mr Hugh Mayor, prosecuting for South Bedfordshire district council, said meat sold for human consumption must come from a licensed slaughterhouse and be inspected and stamped by a council official.

Meat from knacker's yards where tuberculosis and anthrax were often found, must be sterilized and never sold for human consumption. The court was told that Fletcher began buying meat from a knacker's yard at Wiggton, near Leicester, in August, 1979, when he was in partnership with Fensome, trading as Spinney Butchers at Houghton Regis.

In February, 1980, Fletcher began to supply meat to a wholesale butcher in London Road, Aspley, Bedfordshire. Eventually, environmental health officers became suspicious and watched the yard at Wiggton. Fletcher's van was seen outside and later followed to Dunstable, where meat was seen being carried into his shop.

Some of that meat was taken later to the wholesale butchers at Aspley. A magistrate was called and the meat ordered to be condemned.

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# Good news for once from British industry

## COMMONS

British industry was beginning to get into better shape to beat the competition, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Industry, said, when asked if the Government's industrial strategy was on target, in view of the most recent figures for labour productivity in manufacturing industry.

Mr Jenkin said the latest figures suggested that productivity in manufacturing industry was 9.10 per cent higher in the third quarter of 1981 than at the end of 1980. Partly because of this remarkable achievement, unit labour costs in the United Kingdom were among the lowest of our competitors.

Mr David Knox (Leek, C): Output per head in manufacturing rose by less than 1 per cent in the second quarter of 1979, when the Government came into office, and the third quarter of last year, the latest for which figures are available. Looking at it over a longer period, is this really a satisfactory situation?

Mr Jenkin: I am not sure that I recognize his figures. Those for manufacturing industry that we have shown that output per head rose some 10 per cent and output per man-hour by 7.5 per cent over the year.

Unit labour costs over the last 12 months have risen in this country more slowly than in all our main industrial competitors. I regard this as good news. We have begun to see some of the lost competitiveness of earlier years.

Mr Ian Wrigglesworth (Teesside, Thornaby, SDP): The question is whether the Government has an industrial strategy. I wonder if he can tell us what that is?

Mr Jenkin: I will send him copies of some of my recent speeches. (Laughter)

Mr Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington, C): In the absence of any helpful and sensible contribution from the other side of the House, would he accept congratulations not just to the Government but to management and workforce, for what appears to be good news for the country, which is going in the right direction?

Mr Jenkin: I am glad to give credit primarily where it belongs — to the managers and those who work in industry, for having made what by any standards is a remarkable improvement in productivity at a time of considerable industrial difficulty.

Mr Derek Foster (Bishop Auckland, Lab): Was it the target that manufacturing industry should lose 800,000 people in 18 months? Was it also the target that its output be 20 per cent of its total in the greatest slump in the last 50 years?

It is small wonder that with so

many firms go out of business, those that remain must be more efficient and that inevitably increases average productivity.

Mr Jenkin: He is right in the last part of his question. We have had a great deal of concealed unemployment through overmanning, inefficient work practices and restrictive practices, so that British industry is not competitive in many sectors.

What has happened is that under the pressure of the recession, firms up and down the country, right across industry, have had to become more efficient if they were to survive.

## Industries that get too much subsidy

The proportion of the total amount of public subsidy for industry going to finance the steel, shipbuilding, British Leyland and British Shipbuilders was excessive and must be reduced, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Industry, said during other exchanges.

Mr Sydney Chapman (Barnet, Chipping Barnet, C): He asked Mr Jenkin for his latest estimate of the total amount of public subsidy to be paid to industry this financial year and how much of this was to be made available to the BSC, BL and British Shipbuilders.

Mr Jenkin: Total support for British industry in the current year is estimated to be around £3,000m. This includes the whole of regional assistance in industry, support for small firms, science and technology and many other things.

A little over half of the total will go to the steel, shipbuilding and aircraft industries. I regard this proportion as excessive and it must be reduced as soon as practicable.

Mr Chapman: I understand that BSC, BL and BS have shed substantial amounts of labour in recent years. Could I have his assurance that in future years the amount of public subsidy to these three nationalized industries will be dramatically reduced and that any subsidy that may be paid in the future will go to investing in sound capital projects and not the provision of uneconomic labour?

Mr Jenkin: A great deal of the money that has been spent has gone into sound capital projects in the case of BL, some nine major capital projects financed over the past five years, with a total investment of £1,000m.

Mr Derek Foster (Bishop Auckland, Lab): Was it the target that manufacturing industry should lose 800,000 people in 18 months? Was it also the target that its output be 20 per cent of its total in the greatest slump in the last 50 years?

It is small wonder that with so

substantial reduction in the burden which these firms represent for the British taxpayer, so that perhaps we can do a bit more in the area of new, modern industry, where we need industrial companies give support.

Mr Roy Hughes (Newport, Lab): The steel, motor car and shipbuilding industries are vital to the future of any industrial nation. They have all been run down. If this new capital is to be realized and a return made upon it the Government could consider import controls to make sure of this.

Mr Jenkin: It would be of no help to the increasing competitiveness of British industry if we were to embark upon a wide-ranging programme of import controls, as advocated by the official Opposition on the essentialism of industries, there is no point in maintaining in perpetuity industries which are not competitive in the end pay their way.

The Government's intention is that we should make these viable industries which can contribute to, rather than be a drain upon, the British economy.

Mr Stanley Orme, chief Opposition spokesman on industry (Salford, West, Lab): This investment in the public sector has a direct effect on the private sector and creates many thousands of jobs, as we saw recently in the motor industry.

Mr Jenkin: Of course it does. At the same time, with a large part of the support in the past and still currently simply going to meeting losses, that is a point to which Conservative MPs are entitled to draw attention and say they hope to see an end to it.

## BSC costs £2m a day in public funds

ECU industry ministers had agreed to work together to mount a robust defence against possible restrictions by the United States on European steel exports, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Industry, said during a question on the daily costs to public funds of the operations of the British Steel Corporation.

During the current financial year (he said) the total external cash requirements for BSC are estimated to average £2m a day.

Mr Raymond Wintem (Weymouth, C): The future of the steel industry in this country and in Europe is likely to lie largely in the high-grade steels and when we can launch the flow of national wealth revealed in these figures, the sooner we are likely to have a steel industry able to create long-term, viable jobs.



Jenkin: Better shape.

Orme: BL serious.

Mr Jenkin: I am not sure I go the whole way with him. I agree that there is a great future for the parts of the steel industry that can add value to basic steel making and get high quality, high cost products, where they can secure viable markets.

Progress has been made by British Steel in improving productivity at its plants and increasing their efficiency, and with the help of the Government I have announced there will be a long-term future for the British Steel Corporation as a productive, viable steel firm. Of course, there is no reason why this should be a public sector company.

Mr Kenneth Carlisle (Lincoln, C): It is worrying that the United States is considering restricting imports from Europe. Can he do everything possible with his colleagues in government and in Europe to make certain this does not happen?

Mr Jenkin: He raises an important and disturbing issue. I attended a meeting of Community industry ministers in Brussels on January 13. We agreed unanimously that we must work together to mount a robust defence against these actions.

## Minister will not intervene in BL dispute

Question marks could be hanging over British Leyland unless good sense returned, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Industry, said during exchanges on the dispute in BL's bus and truck division.

Mr Stanley Orme, chief Opposition spokesman on industry

(Salford, West, Lab) said that a serious situation had developed in the bus and truck division of Leyland, which is part of British Leyland. Mr Jenkin intervened and found out what was the basis of the problem.

Immediate steps should be taken (he said). Thousands of workers are involved. Those of us who have tried to discuss this with management and the work people feel that some action should be taken directly by the Government.

Mr Jenkin: I disagree. This is an unofficial strike by people who are protesting against the rationalization of production in the Leyland group.

I agree that unless good sense returns pretty quickly once again we are going to have to have question marks hanging over this whole part of British Leyland. The best majority of men are well aware of that.

Mr Orme: The workers involved are highly responsible and have cooperated over recent years in improving productivity and output. I ask him the interests of that industry to intervene.

Mr Jenkin: The day-to-day conduct of industrial relations has to be a matter for the management of BL. That was made abundantly clear by Mr James Callaghan, the former Prime Minister, when Sir Michael Edwards was appointed, and made clear by every minister since.

I can think of nothing that would be more damaging to the authority of management of BL if I were to start to take matters out of their hands.

Information reaching me suggests that a large number of the workers in the Leyland group are aware of the reality of their position and they have inundated the offices of the company for voluntary redundancy terms. They know perfectly well that this rationalization is going ahead.

# Prosecution policy of DPP

## LEGAL

The Director of Public Prosecutions was usually criticized for not prosecuting in enough cases. Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General, said when a Conservative MP stressed the importance of public confidence following recent cases and spoke of the danger of prosecuting whenever there was doubt.

Mr Anthony Nelson (Chichester, C), during questions on prosecution policy, said: It is of the utmost importance that the DPP should enjoy public confidence. There is no danger that after recent cases the temptation by the DPP and his officials, when in doubt, may be to prosecute if such a maxim or rule of thumb approach were adopted it would be regrettable.

Will Sir Michael Havers assure us that the DPP will continue to base his policy on a careful analysis of the evidence and a balanced assessment of where the public interest lies?

Mr Michael Havers: I am sure the DPP always applies those principles. In fact, the criticism

usually levelled about him is that he does not prosecute in enough cases.

Mr Michael English (Nottingham, West, Lab): When he considers the report of the recent Royal Commission on criminal proceedings, will he note recent events in Scotland which illustrate that private prosecutions, having not taken place in the last 70 years, should be a statutory system, private prosecutions may well infringe upon this basic individual right.

It might be a good idea to revert to the ancient British system, still used in the United States, allowing prosecutions ultimately to be decided on by jury.

Sir Michael Havers: There is no jurisdiction over private prosecutions. There are certain statutory restrictions, usually imposed by the will of the House.

The Royal Commission recommendations are under constant consideration.

Mr John Stokes (Halesowen and Stourbridge, C): Will the Attorney General, in discussions with the DPP, bear in mind that the protection of the public from

violent crime must be one of the foremost considerations in the mind of the Government. It is not to have the confidence of an ordinary, law-abiding citizen?

Mr Michael Havers: I have always taken the view that violence is one of the worst crimes in the calendar. Certainly, when I sat in a judicial capacity, I have always made sure, so far as I could, that the sentence reflected my views about that crime.

Mr Arthur Davidson, for the Opposition (Aberdeen, Lab): Has the Attorney General discussed with the DPP recently any plans for setting up a national prosecuting service?

Sir Michael Havers: My views, and those of the DPP, as given in the Royal Commission, were that there should not be a national prosecuting system. But I agreed that every police force should have access to local prosecuting systems, which does not happen throughout the country now.

It was suggested also that the Home Secretary of Attorney General should have a say, as perhaps, in the appointment of the senior prosecuting solicitor.

# Computers in schools may expand

## TECHNOLOGY

The introduction of computers in schools which should see at least one micro processor in every secondary school by the end of 1982, may be extended to primary schools, Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister for Industry and Information Technology, stated during questions.

He also said that £5m had been allocated for the training of teachers in the use of computers and for the provision of software.

Mr Neville Trotter (Tynemouth, C) asked what progress had been made on the introduction of computers into schools.

Mr Baker: My department will have received 2,300 applications for a power project by the end of 1981 and progress has been made with the extension of the

scheme to all secondary schools from January this year.

I am very satisfied with the progress of the scheme so far and we are well on the way to reaching the objective of ensuring that every secondary school has at least one micro by the end of 1982.

Mr Thomas Ellis (Wrexham, SDP): Is he extending the list of names of suppliers from two to four other manufacturers may be included?

Mr Baker: The scheme is being extended to all secondary schools from January this year and as regards manufacturers, two existing ones have been selected, but I am considering the possibility of extending the scheme to primary schools and in that case, it will be looked at further.

# Loan scheme goes like hot cakes

There would have to be a careful look at the loan guarantee scheme before any major changes were considered, Mr John MacGregor, Lord Secretary of State for Industry, said.

Mr Michael Grylls (North West Surrey, C) had asked if the minister would raise the upper limit on the loan guarantee scheme from £75,000 to £500,000.

Mr MacGregor said the loan guarantee scheme had been in operation just over eight months and he would be reviewing its operation to date with the banks very shortly.

Mr Grylls: Research in the United States shows it is the very small firms that supply the greatest number of new jobs. In Britain it is the existing small

firms that have the greatest potential for new jobs and therefore it is necessary to raise the upper limit from a modest £75,000 to £500,000 and we would get more jobs if we do that?

Mr MacGregor: We are anxious to increase the contribution of both new and existing small firms but an increase to £500,000 would change the nature of the scheme and potential cost but I will take it into account in the review.

This scheme is going like hot cakes and 1,833 businesses up to the end of last month have been aided under the scheme worth £63.6m. I have to take that into account also.

# £250m in aid for aircraft industry

The possibility of collaboration between the British and Japanese aircraft industries has been discussed by Mr Norman Lamont, Minister of State for Industry, during questions.

Mr Lamont recalled that net public expenditure in direct support for the civil aircraft industry in 1981-82 was expected to be £251.3m.

Mr Robert Atkins (Preston, North, C): If it is still Government policy to put in public support for the civil aircraft industry, does he expect to make a positive and helpful statement to the Government support for the A320 aircraft?

Mr Lamont: We have received an approach from British Aerospace about the availability of launch aid. We are considering that now.

# Tribunals given power to discharge mental patients

## HOUSE OF LORDS

New powers to remove the sole right of the Home Secretary to order the discharge of the mentally ill in favour of Mental Health Review Tribunals, following a recent decision by the European Court of Human Rights, were given effect by the Mental Health (Amendment) Bill.

The House of Lords approved a Government amendment to the Bill to comply with the ruling of the European Court. The amendment would give tribunals the right to discharge restricted patients (those forcibly detained for mental disorders by the courts), a power previously held only by the Home Secretary.

Lord Beldsted also announced that each tribunal would have as its president a lawyer with a sound knowledge of the law and a power previously held only by the Home Secretary.

The Lord Chancellor would be appointing to the tribunals a number of circuit judges, and in the three regions where special hospitals were found, this would necessitate two or three additional appointments to the circuit bench.

He said the amendment sprang from the European Court case of "X" versus the United Kingdom, concerning a mentally ill and charged patient from Broadmoor who was recalled to hospital following reports of a deterioration in his mental condition.

Having failed to secure his release from hospital by applying for habeas corpus, the patient assisted proceedings at Strasbourg.

The European Court concluded that his recall to hospital as a person of unsound mind was in breach of Article 5 of the European Convention, but the court upheld his claim that he was entitled to judicial review of the grounds for detention under the Mental Health Act.

Since the incidence of mental disorder might change over a period of time, there must be provision for a periodic judicial review of the issue of detainability by a court capable of ordering discharge if the disorder no longer persisted.

The Mental Health Review Tribunal, which will have advisory powers, did not meet the terms of the convention. The United Kingdom which had agreed the convention of human rights, was bound to bring its law into conformity with the requirements of the convention as interpreted by the European Court.

Under this and other Government amendments to the Bill, the

Home Secretary would keep his present powers to discharge restricted patients or remove restrictions or recall to hospital if such proved necessary. The new provisions, necessary to give effect to the European court decision, would give discharge powers, and the power to remove restrictions, to Mental Health Review Tribunals.

The tribunals would be able to discharge from hospital restricted patients, as they were at present able to do for other categories of detainees.

Lord Beldsted was the most appropriate body to deal with these cases, and more suitable than the Crown Court, not only because of the resources of time on the Crown Courts, but because of the flexibility and informality of the proceedings before the tribunals, which were often held in the vicinity of the hospital.

An additional safeguard would enable the Secretary of State at any time to refer the case of a restricted patient to a tribunal, and would ensure that a tribunal would be held within the last three years.

An absolute discharge would be necessary for anyone found not to be suffering from any of the forms of mental disorder which would require such a degree of hospital treatment to be appropriate, where restriction was not necessary for the protection of the public or hospital and where further recall to hospital was not necessary. If recall was considered possible, a conditional discharge would be made.

These provisions affected not only those subject to hospital restriction orders, but also those who were treated as restricted patients automatically to release transferred patients simply because their mental health no longer satisfied the criteria. A prisoner would have to return to hospital if his or her sentence was considered possible, a conditional discharge would be made.

Conditionally discharged patients would have the right to periodic review by the tribunal, and would be referred to a tribunal by the Secretary of State within a month of return to hospital.

Lord Wallace of Gosford, for the Opposition, (Lab) welcomed the changes in the Bill. He said they were a great improvement on present measures. The Government amendments were agreed.

An Opposition amendment which proposed that an applicant appearing before a Mental Health Review Tribunal should be entitled to be represented by counsel or a solicitor paid for by the State was rejected by 22 votes to 17 — Government majority five.

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Because of the need for flexibility in the tribunals, the Government did not intend there to be an exclusive requirement for circuit judges in these cases. It would be possible for other lawyers to appear, if their experience and standing was judged by the Lord Chancellor to be suitable, such as barristers and Queen's Counsel. No statutory limitation was necessary.

# Minister rejects Labour plan for help with fuel bills

## WEATHER

The Government's response to an opposition motion on higher fuel bills following the extreme weather, lay it open to the charge that it had not fully grasped the severity of the conditions, Mr Alexander Eadie, an Opposition spokesman on energy (Midlothian, Lab) said in opening the debate.

The motion called on the Government to take immediate action to help those in greatest need to protect them from the consequences of extreme weather this winter by instructing the gas and electricity industries to cease all discount schemes for the next three months, extending Government help by paying a winter quarter's fuel bonus to those receiving rent and rate rebates and not otherwise included.

He said there had been widespread criticism of the Government during the agony which the nation had undergone. The House must be aware of the welter of controversy that surrounded the arbitrary decisions that had been taken by the gas and electricity boards. A wide spectrum of organisations had pointed out the limitations and ineffectiveness of the code of practice and since it was known the debate would take place he had been showered with documents and information.

The House would want to know the Government's response to the PSI review and its recommendations. As well as setting out a timetable for discussion and implementation of its main recommendations, the report recommended the present code of practice should be strictly observed and that tenants

should not be disconnected because of their landlords' debts. It also recommended that boards and regions with above-average discount rates should review their policies, that customers with large debts should be offered long-term payment plans, and customers who had been paying rebates should be offered a pre-payment meter geared to recover their debt.

The department of Health and Social Security had asked the offices to operate new regulations which were anything but simple. To implement them satisfactorily would place an enormous responsibility on the DHSS offices.

Fuel and lighting had increased in price for domestic consumers by 34.5 per cent between 1971 and 1981. People were trapped in relation to the kind of heating system in their homes and had no choice.

There was much that the Government could do. Coal stocks were at present at the record level of 40 million tons. It would help some consumers if a concessionary coal price scheme were introduced.

Mr David Mellor, Under Secretary of State for Energy, moved an amendment welcoming the steps taken by the Government to protect those most at risk from severe weather, and would include a concessionary coal price scheme.

The Opposition's proposal to stop all discount schemes for three months would have enormous cost implications and could only result in increased hardship for many people.

The proposal for a double payment in February was impractical. Even if it were desirable it should be arranged in the time scale.

He acknowledged that many people were facing problems this winter as they had for past winters. It was no part of the Government's philosophy that the old and needy should be worried or cold this winter or any other winter. It was clear well before the onset of the winter that the Government

subject to disconnection, and it would be wrong if in some of these cases people were permitted to build up large bills which would have the consequence of worsening the financial position of the industry and leading to additional costs for consumers.

The Department of Energy was making grants available to help voluntary organisations set up insulation projects. The Manpower Services Commission was also spending about £2,500,000 this year funding some 37 projects, employing about 400 people who would otherwise be unemployed.

Plans were developing for a further 12 schemes to be assisted, with a further 150 people to be added to a further 20,000 dwellings per annum to the figure of 30,000.

The Government had no illusions about the hardship the winter had caused to many and was not self-satisfied about the steps it had taken, but it was entitled to say that it was aware of the problem and was already making a considerable effort to help.

He hoped in future years more could be done as resources became available, but today, in the circumstances, real progress had been made to help the poorest with their fuel bills.

Mr David Winnick (Walsall, North, Lab) said the amount of new money introduced by the Government to help the lowest paid and those on the lowest incomes with their fuel bills was small.

One of the first priorities should be to pay the £1.65 weekly on a permanent basis to all those who received supplementary benefit. Any elderly retiree couple under the age of 70 on supplementary benefit received no assistance at all. As a priority the increase should be extended to pensioners under 70.

Mr Barry Henderson (East Fife, C) said the Government had stated that it was committed to retaining the real value of pensions. He wanted an assurance that the fuel cost element in family expenditure was fully reflected in the retail price index because there had been great changes in these costs.

Mr Geraint Howells (Cardigan, LI) said the death rate was virtually stable throughout the year to realise Britain fell far short of the ideal in care and concern for those people in need. Their first priority should be to make fuel bills into account, that they need not be terrified of keeping themselves warm, and finally expenditure was their due and not charity.

Mr Paul Dean (North Somerset, C) said it was no longer adequate to take fuel bills into account in the annual review of pensions and other benefits and the Government seemed to have recognized that. But did the substantial improvement made in the various fuel schemes available go far enough?

Although the £250m a year paid out in supplementary benefits was a substantial amount, it went only to a small proportion of the

population. Those just outside the margin and caught in the tax net, often thrifty and hardworking, were also finding the going

But this group were becoming bitter because they felt that compared with those on supplementary benefit, they were being penalized for their thrift and hard work. It would be bad for the moral fibre of the country if it appeared that saving and hard work brought no reward.

Mr Norman Atkinson (Haringey, Tottenham, Lab) said that the average man meant that many people could not afford both heating and lighting.

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# BL measures in millionths of an inch.

In order to meet the requirements of quality and reliability for cars in the eighties, BL engineers use equipment that can measure in millionths of an inch.

To do this accurately they have developed a metrology (measuring) centre that is only matched for specification by two top Government research establishments — The National Physical Lab-

oratory and the National Engineering Laboratory. One millionth of an inch may not seem too important to the average motorist.

But accuracy to this level has a direct effect on quality and reliability. To the metrologists at BL Technology Ltd, a millionth is as good as a mile.

BL Fighting back

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## Pay warning for 'ineffective' Telecom staff

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

British Telecom has disclosed that its field engineers average only three visits a day, less than half the figure achieved in the United States and up to half their time is spent "ineffectively".

Pay rises for 250,000 employees will be extremely difficult to justify this year, the state enterprise says.

In a "state of the business" message to management and some union officials, Sir George Jefferson, British Telecom chairman, paints a picture of serious overmanning, inflexible work practices, luxurious office accommodation and staff being paid more than their work deserves.

But he admits: "Management must bear the main responsibility for most of what is wrong — and for putting it right, with the help of unions and staff". Otherwise British Telecom would be in a weak position to face competition, he insists.

Revealing that BT's running costs rose at double last year's rate of inflation, Sir George points out that staff levels and wages grew by 18 per cent in 1979-80 and by 31 per cent in 1980-81. "Far outstripping growth", which is expected to decline from 4.6 per cent last year to 3.5 per cent in 1981-82.

In a catalogue of labour inefficiency, the chairman complains of:

Out-of-date methods of work; over 40 per cent of fixed costs absorbed by time spent on paperwork.

Inter-union arguments on operating computer terminals in mixed clerical/engineering areas.

Time-wasting in putting in telephones. "For every two hours spent on installation in the field, one hour is spent in control, line plant allocations and replacements."

"The number of survey officers has remained unchanged for 20 years, although the need for them has reduced. In the United States, AT & T installation and maintenance staff average seven visits a day compared with our average of three."

Ineffective time still represents 40 per cent of the cost of external works.

Excessive manning levels in telephone exchange maintenance

that could be cut by better work organization.

"Grade drift" — people being paid a grade or so higher than their work deserves. More than 70 per cent of maintenance men in conventional Strowger exchanges are graded as telecommunications officers, the top of the manual scale, when "the figures should be nearer 50 per cent."

Those problems, Sir George goes on, are compounded by demarcation difficulties, inflexible work practices, rigidity on manning levels and slowness to accept change.

"It all amounts to a situation in which it should be extremely difficult to justify increasing pay next year."

"Not that I am attacking high wages as such. But they must be justified by high output, and we will have to place greater emphasis on payment for ability and performance, rather than parity or preservation of differentials."

He also discloses that there are "many other ways" in which the "business overpays". For example, telephone headquarters staff had grown by more than 10 per cent, to more than 25,000, since 1978. There were some 8,000 regional headquarters "Hos".

Furthermore, they enjoyed "over-generous accommodation, compared with other firms, particularly with so many HQ staff in London". Staff also enforced uneconomic substitution rules, regardless of availability of competent junior staff on the spot, and there were "slow and expensive promotion and appointments procedures, with seniority often more influential than merit."

Sir George has told the management to put their house in order, and gives a warning: "I cannot guarantee that there will never be redundancies. This will depend on the success of the business and how effective we are in making the necessary changes."

Yorkshire miners have voted overwhelmingly for a left-wing area president to succeed Mr Arthur Scargill when he takes over as national president of the National Union of Mineworkers in April.

Mr Jack Taylor, vice-president of Yorkshire NUM, collected 28,148 votes in a 66 per cent poll, some 19,000 more than his nearest rival, Mr John Walsh, the union's moderate North Yorkshire area agent, who had 9,1254. Mr John Stones, polled 3,962 votes and Mr Albert Barlow 1,752.

Mr Taylor made clear that he would continue the policies advocated by Mr Scargill, who expressed delight and observed that Mr Taylor was not only a close friend but also "a man who shares my views of what this union is all about."

He said: "I am sure the combination of a national president and the president of the Yorkshire miners working together will be infinitely better than a president's participation in political matters. 'If we need to be political to defend our members' living standards, then we will be political.'"

Mr Taylor proposes to continue the Yorkshire area policy of holding miners' caucus meetings to attract union members to the right place at the right time for subsequent Labour Party

meetings. He also made clear that he felt that some objection to the ballot procedure was due on behalf of members, although he always accepted ballot results. He said members were asked to vote for officials when they knew nothing about their policies. He felt the union should have organized meetings to allow all the candidates to explain where they stood on various issues.

He said that Mr Taylor had a head start because he had appeared with Mr Scargill on platforms speaking in the wages debate and had received much exposure in the Yorkshire Miner newspaper.

"I consider it was unfair on the membership, not on the candidates," Mr Walsh said.

Mr Taylor's reaction was that the option of speaking at various meetings was open to Mr Walsh and any other candidate. Mr Scargill denied any suggestion that the election had not been fair. It had been conducted on the same lines as every other election.

"It has not been a closed election. It has been a perfectly proper election. If any candidate is invited to speak by any organization, he is entitled to attend. What is not allowed is written propaganda."

Mr Ben Pearson, for the defence, said that Mr Taylor had been talking about the new shooting season and he got over-enthusiastic. He went out in broad daylight.

Mr Pearson added that Mr Taylor had to practice every day and if his shotgun certificate was lost it would jeopardise his place in the squad. "His future is in your hands", he told the magistrates, who ordered the pheasants and cartridges to be forfeited. They decided that the gun would not be confiscated.

One of Britain's top marksmen admitted poaching when he appeared at King's Lynn yesterday.

Christopher Jary, aged 18, of Tennyson Avenue, Kings Lynn, one of this country's brightest prospects in the next Olympics, was fined £75. His solicitor asked the magistrates to allow him to keep the gun and his shotgun certificate so that he could continue his intensive training for the 1984 Olympics.

Sergeant Ivan Jordan for the prosecution said Jary was stopped by police after he had been seen speeding. An officer saw him throw something heavy over a hedge and when he investigated he found a Browning 12 bore shotgun, worth £600. In the back of the car he saw six cock pheasants and numerous 12-bore cartridges.

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## Left-winger to carry on Scargill tradition

From Ronald Kershaw, Barnsley

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Handing over: Mr Arthur Scargill (right) with Jack Taylor, his successor as Yorkshire's NUM president

## Crack shot admits poaching charge

From a Correspondent King's Lynn

One of Britain's top marksmen admitted poaching when he appeared at King's Lynn yesterday.

Christopher Jary, aged 18, of Tennyson Avenue, Kings Lynn, one of this country's brightest prospects in the next Olympics, was fined £75. His solicitor asked the magistrates to allow him to keep the gun and his shotgun certificate so that he could continue his intensive training for the 1984 Olympics.

Sergeant Ivan Jordan for the prosecution said Jary was stopped by police after he had been seen speeding. An officer saw him throw something heavy over a hedge and when he investigated he found a Browning 12 bore shotgun, worth £600. In the back of the car he saw six cock pheasants and numerous 12-bore cartridges.

Mr Jary said he was out shooting with his father and he had been out for a long time. He said he had been out for a long time and he had been out for a long time.

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Kenya MP shot dead in ambush

Nairobi. — Gunmen shot dead Mr Alex Isako Umuro, a Kenya MP, when they ambushed his car in a remote area of northern Kenya yesterday, the official Kenya News Agency reported.

It quoted a survivor of the dusk attack as saying that eight men in army uniforms and with rifles fired a flare and then poured a hail of bullets into the MP's car. One survivor, Mr Bundi Muriani, said the MP died instantly. Six other passengers in the vehicle fled unhurt into the bush.

The incident took place near Marsabit, 250 miles north of Nairobi in Kenya's north-eastern province, scene of bandit activity in recent years.

Former slave dies aged 119



Bunnell, Florida — Mr Ike Ward, a woodcutter born a slave on a Virginia plantation on Christmas Day 1862, when Abraham Lincoln was president, has died here aged 119, one day after he entered a nursing home for the first time.

He was married 16 times and outlived all his wives. For the past five years he was looked after by Miss Rachel Hall, a 62-year-old cousin.

He had worked, ploughing his own one-acre plot, until two weeks ago. He was always in perfect health, never used a walking stick or wore glasses.

\$50m scheme to save Sahel

Praia, Cape Verde Islands. — General Moussa Traore, the Malian head of state, has complained that after an initial burst of enthusiasm, the world's rich countries had lost interest in saving West Africa's Sahel region from drought and desertification.

He spoke after a meeting of an eight-nation committee which decided to build up emergency food stocks for the region.

The \$50m plan, backed by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, will be finalized in Rome in March between the Sahel states and Western donor countries.

Vote on Koivisto as President

Helsinki. — Finland's Council of Electors will meet today to confirm Dr Mauno Koivisto's election as the country's next president.

The electors theoretically can vote up to three times, but Mr Koivisto, who is 57, is certain to receive more than the 151 votes needed for victory in the 301-strong Council of Electors in the first round. He controls 145 Social Democratic and independent electors and the 22 electors of the Communist party's Euro-Communist wing have decided to vote for him.

A moderate Social Democrat, he will be Finland's first Socialist President.

Belgian pirates jam air waves

Brussels. — Angry Belgian radio pirates have begun a war of the air waves by jamming output from the national French language network in Brussels (Jan Murray writes). They were protesting against the seizure by police last week of broadcasting equipment used by four illicit stations.

The Belgian Independent Radio Group used vans with jamming equipment which toured the capital.

Court told of £300m traffic in heroin

Palermo. — Seventy-six alleged Mafia heroin traffickers were sent for trial here charged with criminal association, trafficking in illegal drugs and other crimes.

Signor Giovanni Falcone, the investigating magistrate, said heroin traded through Sicily to the United States had made the group about \$600m (nearly £300m).

Miro leaves hospital

Palma de Mallorca. — Joan Miro, the Spanish painter, aged 89, left hospital after two weeks during which he had a pacemaker fitted.

Six die in crashes

Parma. — Six people died and 39 were injured in car crashes in the fog on the motorway known as the "Superhighway of the Sun" near here in northern Italy.

Egypt takes first step to better Soviet relations

From Our Correspondent, Cairo, Jan 25

The announcement by Egypt that 66 Soviet technical advisers will be coming to Egypt is the first big step towards normalizing relations between the countries, now at an all-time low.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman told The Times that the technicians had been requested by industrial sectors which were set up with Soviet assistance in the 1960s. That was the time of the Soviet-Egyptian honeymoon which came to a sudden halt when the then President Sadat expelled 17,000 military advisers.

Mr Sadat took a second harsh stand against Moscow in September, a month before his assassination, when he expelled the Soviet Ambassador and six top diplomats on the grounds that they were fomenting Christian-Muslim strife.

Seven hundred technicians working on the Aswan High Dam, the Helwan iron and steel complex and the aluminium factory in Upper Egypt were also ejected.

Mr Kamal Hassan Ali, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, told The Times the technicians would be returning "only for a specific period — to install equipment that had been contracted for before they were expelled".

They would be continuing the original work of their contract. He did not know how long they would stay or when they would start arriving.

Egypt did not expect to exchange ambassadors with Moscow soon, despite speculation to the contrary. "It will not be in the near future, but, of course, when you sever relations with a country it cannot also last forever. At present the issue has not been studied", he said.

The possibly improving ties with Moscow would not affect relations with the United States. "Our relations with the United States are very, very close and there is no intention of modifying this except to make them even better", he said.

The return of the technicians comes after a number of signs of improving relations in the past week. Cairo's approval to two more diplomats to join the 32-man Soviet mission here, reports that trade between the two countries may increase by between 18 and 20 per cent, and today's report that a trade mission is visiting Moscow for negotiations.

President Hosni Mubarak, Mr Sadat's successor, in an interview published this weekend with a German magazine said returning relations to ambassadorial level was inevitable in principle.

Mr Mubarak is to meet Mr Alexander Haig, United States Secretary of State, to discuss means of promoting the stalled Palestinian autonomy talks, and his expected trip to the United States, France, Britain and West Germany next week.

A diplomat said: "The President's trip has no relation to the return of the Soviets. Egypt is not playing East against West as some may be led to deduce." The specialists were needed in factories.

Gulf plans policy for defence

Jiddah, Jan 25. — Arab defence ministers of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council opened two days of talks today intended to coordinate defence policy in the area.

As the discussions began two leading Saudi daily newspapers pinpointed Iran as the main threat to stability in the area, and called for the assembly of a strike force to combat the threat posed by the Islamic fundamentalist leaders.

The ministers from Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates met in Riyadh, the Saudi capital, the official Saudi Press Agency said.

They were asked by their heads of state last November to define priorities for ensuring the independence and sovereignty of member states, who produce about 11.5 million barrels of oil daily. They are expected to study recommendations by their chief of staff for joint air defence systems, arms procurement policies and armament plants.

The council was formed last May to face what the six states saw as threats from the Soviet military presence in Afghanistan, the Iranian revolution and the Iraq-Iran war.

Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz the Saudi Defence Minister was quoted by the Saudi-based Arab news agency as saying that the ministers were opposed to arms standardization, "because the idea of depending on a single source of weapons is rejected".

The six, whose defence budget this year comes to about \$15,000m, buy arms mainly from the United States, Britain and France.

Gaddafi mystery in Tunisia

Tunis, Jan 25. — Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader is reported to have left Tunisia by road for Libya after meeting Mr Muhammad Mzali, the Prime Minister, and other ministers during a surprise visit to Tunisia.

Relations between the two countries are strained and politicians and diplomats were surprised when Colonel Gaddafi arrived unannounced from Algiers on Saturday night. President Habib Bourguiba is in the United States for medical treatment and Mr Mzali was on a tour of southern Tunisia.

Tunisian officials appeared to be embarrassed by the visit although it is believed that Colonel Gaddafi had sent word from Algiers that he intended to return to Libya by road through Tunisia.

The officials said that Colonel Gaddafi's talks held in the southern town of Gabes with Mr Mzali and the Tunisian ministers for the economy, planning, the interior and justice were cordial and relaxed, but gave no other details.

Relations between Libya and Tunisia have been strained since Colonel Gaddafi's attempt to merge the two countries was rejected by President Bourguiba only a few hours after they both agreed to the plan in January, 1974.

Relations were severed when Libyan-trained Tunisian guerrillas attacked the southern mining town of Gafsa in January, 1980.

The two countries are also in conflict over the limits of the potentially oil-rich continental shelf between them. They have put this dispute before the International Court at The Hague which is expected to deliver its verdict next month.



Warsaw Pact winter exercises begin

Carrington attacked Britain upsets both Israel and PLO

From Edward Mortimer, Beirut, Jan 25

A British Foreign Secretary's lot is not a happy one, or not in the Middle East anyway. In Israel Lord Carrington is likely to encounter demonstrations by Israelis infuriated by what they regard as his "undisguised support for many of the aims of the Palestine Liberation Organization".

Yet at PLO offices in Beirut the visiting British journalist is greeted by a barrage of complaints about Lord Carrington's performance, particularly during the second half of last year, when he was President of the EEC council of Ministers.

The complaints were voiced with particular earnestness, more in sorrow than in anger, by Dr Ahmad Sidqi al-Dajani, the PLO executive member responsible for European Arab dialogue.

When Britain assumed the EEC presidency in July, Dr Dajani said in an interview that the Arabs were optimistic about Lord Carrington's personality, but the six months passed "without any small positive deed from the presidency towards a comprehensive settlement".

He asked why Lord Carrington kept imposing conditions on him and Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, where the Foreign Secretary was now going to visit Israel, without conditions, "after Israel has annexed Golan, has bombed Beirut, has tortured our people, and so many things".

Dr Dajani asked why Lord Carrington had not continued the contacts with the PLO leadership maintained by his predecessors in the EEC chair.

The demand for "a signal towards recognition of Israel" was unreasonable, Dr Dajani said, since Israel did not recognize the PLO and he declared frankly that they would have no dealings with the PLO even if it did recognize Israel.

Mr Arafat and the PLO leaders had made it abundantly clear in recent years that their aim was a peaceful settlement, including an independent Palestinian state.

Dr Dajani said Palestinians were being subjected to detention without trial and that blowing up of houses, under law introduced in Palestine by Britain.

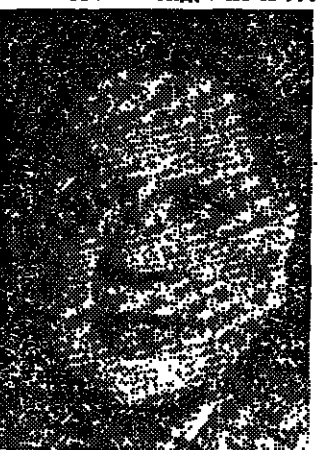
He deplored the fact that no "official voice" had been heard saying that these laws had been a mistake, or that the Court at The Hague which is justified by British laws in present circumstances.

Fears for health of Deng grow

Peking, Jan 25. — The Chinese media have omitted the name of Mr Deng Xiaoping, the Communist Party chairman, from lists of leaders present at the lunar new year celebrations in Peking, provoking speculation about his health.

Press, radio and television reports yesterday and today listed the names of every other member of the seven-member communist Party Politburo standing committee, the party's highest body, except Mr Deng.

For the past few weeks rumours have been rife in Peking about the state of health of Mr Deng, who is 77.



Mr Deng: Name omitted from list of leaders at celebrations.

Added fuel was given to the rumours in November when Mr Deng, the top surviving victim of the Cultural Revolution, who was disgraced twice by Mao Tse-tung, appeared in public for the first time accompanied by a nurse.

However, Signor Vittorio Colombo, the Italian Christian Democratic Party Vice-Secretary, who has since had a meeting with Mr Deng, said he was in good shape. His last reported public activity was on January 12 when he and other leaders met delegates at a conference on political work in the Army.

Chinese television yesterday showed top leaders at the reception in the Great Hall of the People seated around a table with one empty place.

In the past few days the Chinese media have mentioned all but three of the 24 members of the Politburo: Mr Deng, Mr Fang Yi and Mr Chen Yonggui. There are doubts whether Mr Chen Yonggui, who has been in disgrace for many months, is still a member of the Politburo.

Mr Deng appeared at the opening session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, and then at the opening of the National People's Congress on November 15, accompanied by a nurse. Shortly before, he had made several references to his age.

Yesterday four Politburo standing committee members took part in the reception. — AFP.

Corruption deplored by Indian President

From Trevor Fishlock, Delhi, Jan 25

In a remarkably candid speech on the eve of India's Republic Day President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan deplored the growth of violence and corruption in the country.

He spoke of "consequences too frightening to contemplate" if faith in the political system were further eroded, and rued the decay of "the noble spirit" of Mahatma Gandhi.

The speech, broadcast on All-India Radio, was notable for its strong element of anxiety and disappointment on an occasion when the country usually celebrates itself and its achievements.

The President's words reflected a mood of pessimism and agonized appraisal in the country, expressed in a recent spate on newspaper articles on the growth of venality, of violence and of falling standards in public life.

Like many Indians, President Radhakrishnan was asking "Where and why have we gone wrong?" Above all, his critique voiced the disappointment felt in a section of the older generation who worked for, or were inspired by Gandhi in the years of the independence struggle.

On the credit side his speech listed India's agricultural and industrial achievements, but on the debit side it referred to the plight of poor farmers and of large numbers of urban poor living in squalor.

He spoke of the growing tendency to violence, saying that "values and sanctions which enabled us to live together in peace (now) appear to be losing their hold. Respect for older and the sanctity of life and property seem no longer to guide our conduct."

In a reference to murders of Gandhians (untouchables) he said he was perturbed by frequent atrocities.

He recalled the spirit of the independence movement, saying many responded to Gandhi's call without concern for the suffering and sacrifice involved.

"What we find today is the antithesis of the noble spirit which animated the nation only a few decades ago. Why is that this permissive attitude has overtaken our society? Have we of the older generation set a wrong example?" he asked.

President Radhakrishnan had talked about disturbing features of the national scene because he wanted to give a warning that if action were not taken to arrest the disregard of moral values in public life, "faith in our political system will be undermined with consequences too frightening to contemplate."

In words meant to be reflected on, he said that people should act according to the constitution. Any attempt to transgress its limits would only lead to confusion.

The presidency in India is an apolitical figurehead function, and President Radhakrishnan's frank comments will no doubt provoke criticism for that reason, if not others. Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, may not like some of the things he said, considering that she has the country for 12 of its 34 independent years.

DRUG WAR VICTORY CLAIMED

From David Watts, Singapore, Jan 25

The Thai military is claiming an important victory against the principle opium trader in the Golden Triangle after five days of fighting at the edge of the area.

The fighting began late last week when the Thai engaged Chang Chifu's Burmese separatist Shan United Army in north-west Thailand close to the Burmese border. By tonight they claimed to have killed 90 of Chang's men, wounded twice that number and captured one of his most important strongholds with a large cache of weapons. Security forces lost 17 dead.

Western diplomats and military men in Thailand, however, treat the Thai claims with some scepticism.

According to the Thai their forces captured some 307 tons of ammunition and 4,000 weapons.

Prisoners of conscience



Argentina: Liliana Graciela Vogler

By Caroline Moorehead

Liliana Graciela Vogler was a university student aged 17 when she was arrested, on June 25, 1975, at her home in Rio Cuarto, in the province of Cordoba. After a confession, said to have been extracted under torture, that she and two friends were involved in political activities, she was charged under Law 20,840 with "subversive activities". She is now serving a nine-year prison sentence.

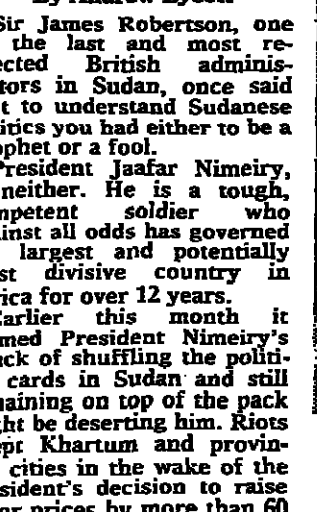
During the two days after her arrest she is said to have been held by the provincial police, who drew up a "declaration" of guilt and forced her, after torture, to sign it. Later she was told that if she denied the confession in court her family would be killed. In court she duly confirmed it, but as the preliminary hearings came to an end declared that she had been beaten.

After further student arrests in Rio Cuarto the city's federal judge ordered her to be moved to Cordoba penitentiary for a new investigation. This time she demanded, and got, a promise of protection if she spoke out. In court she gave details of her torture, but again all mention was removed from the published record.

Five days later, part of her family house was blown up. A few weeks later, another bomb blasted the house and her father was told that he would be killed unless he left the city. When he failed to go he was arrested and held without charge in Cordoba penitentiary for two years. On his release he went into exile.

Nimeiry rides the storm in Sudan

By Andrew Lycett



President Nimeiry: Tough soldier adept at shuffling the political cards.

Sir James Robertson, one of the last and most respected British administrators in Sudan, once said that the Sudanese people you had either to be a prophet or a fool.

President Jaafar Nimeiry, is neither. He is a tough, competent soldier who against all odds has governed the largest and potentially most divisive country in Africa for over 12 years.

Earlier this month it seemed President Nimeiry's knack of shuffling the political cards in Sudan and still remaining on top of the pack might be deserting him. Riots swept Khartoum and provincial cities in the wake of the President's decision to raise sugar prices by more than 60 per cent. There were also reported disturbances in the South after the detention of prominent regional politicians.

Since then the atmosphere has cooled. The death last weekend of Sherif el-Hindi, leader of the Sudanese opposition movement in exile, failed to incite insurrection in Khartoum. President Nimeiry scored something of a public relations coup by announcing the death of his adversary himself on Sudanese radio.

In another move, President Nimeiry also yesterday dissolved the top levels of the Sudanese Socialist Union (SSU), the country's sole legal political party and launched a sweeping internal

President Nimeiry's somewhat battered base of support is starting to crack. The economy may be bad and the South, for a long time a strong source of backing for the President's regime, may be drifting apart and away from him.

But the Army, recently fortified with handsome pay rises, is sticking with him, and so for the moment is the rising strand of Islamic fundamentalism represented in the Cabinet by the Attorney General, Dr Hassan al-Turabi, and Abdel Rahman Ahmed, the Interior Minister.

This support comes with political strings attached. Islam has a powerful emotional appeal in the country of the Mahdi. Today various political-religious clans, such as the Ansar and Khatmiyah, are competing strongly with the Muslim Brotherhood for the religious constituency.

Muslim politicians in the North would like to break the power of the South to block such cherished ambitions as making Sudan an Islamic state. This explains, in part at least, the Government's scheme to divide the South into three separate regions, and the subsequent fusts in recent weeks.

There is also political pressure on President Nimeiry to adopt less stridently pro-Western attitudes, and this partly explains his rapprochement with Chad.

It is on the economy,

however, that the President will stand or fall. Despite opposition at home, President Nimeiry has committed himself to the implementation of an economic reform programme, inspired by the International Monetary Fund, which has already required him to court unpopularity by devaluing and cutting subsidies.

President Nimeiry has tried to give his economic measures street-level credibility by setting up special courts which fine and flog unfortunate traders who charge an extra 10 piastres on a fixed-price bundle of lentils. The critics say such innovations hurt unfairly at the souk merchant while fat-cat businessmen, who have made fortunes from hoarding goods, go scot free.

In some ways the United States holds the key to President Nimeiry's success or failure. It now gives more aid to Sudan than to any country in black Africa.

The trouble for President Nimeiry himself, who suffers from a constricting form of hyper-tension, and for any interested observer of Sudan — is that there is no obvious successor.

So President Nimeiry may hang on to the balancing job at which he excels — unless the forthcoming special congress of the ruling Sudanese Socialist Union party, called for February, brings some surprises, as has been widely tipped.



## Law Report January 26 1982

## Privy Council

## Lawful custody to be proved

## Dillon v The Queen

Before Lord Fraser of Tullybelton, Lord Simon of Glaisdale, Lord Russell of Killowen, Lord Roskill and Lord Bridge of Harwich.

[Judgment delivered January 25]

Where a police constable was charged with permitting a prisoner to escape from his custody the prosecution was not entitled to rely on a presumption that the prisoner's detention in custody was lawful but had to prove its lawfulness by affirmative evidence.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council allowed the appeal by Roy Dillon, a police constable, from a decision of the Court of Appeal of Jamaica by which that court dismissed his appeal against his conviction by Mr. A. J. Lambert a resident magistrate at Kingston, Jamaica, of having negligently permitted Paul Bryan and Robert Blackwood to escape from lawful custody.

Mr. Nigel Murray for the constable; Mr. Ian J. Fort, QC, Director of Public Prosecutions, Jamaica, and Mr. F. Algernon Smith, Deputy DPP Jamaica, for the Crown.

LORD FRASER, delivering their Lordships' judgment, said that the appellant was a police constable. On April 25, 1976 he had been on duty at the central police station lock-up in Kingston, Jamaica. His duties included guarding the cells and ensuring that the prisoners in custody did not escape. Among the prisoners were Paul Bryan and Robert Blackwood. While his superior officer was engaged in duties elsewhere, the constable had opened the cells occupied by the prisoners Bryan and Blackwood and allowed them to escape. He was charged before the resident magistrate with having negligently permitted Bryan and Blackwood to escape from lawful custody.

At the hearing, the evidence was that the prisoner Bryan had been arrested in February 1976 on a charge of shooting with intent, that he had escaped from custody and had been recaptured on March 24, 1976. Thereafter he

had been in custody until he escaped again on April 25.

There was no evidence to show that he had been brought before a magistrate between March 24 and April 25 or that on March 24 there had been any written authority for his detention. The Crown had conceded that if he had not been brought before a magistrate between March 24 and April 25 his continued detention would have been unlawful.

As regards the prisoner Blackwood, he had been transferred to the central police station lock-up from the remand section of the General Penitentiary, Kingston. There was no evidence as to any power pursuant to which he had been transferred to the lock-up and held there.

The Crown had argued that on a charge of negligently permitting a prisoner to escape from custody the prosecution did not have to prove affirmatively that the prisoner's detention had been lawful and that it was entitled to rely on a presumption that the effect in accordance with the maxim *omnia presumuntur rite et solemniter esse acta donec probetur in contrarium* (things are presumed to have been done properly in the absence of proof to the contrary).

*Hawkins's Pleas of the Crown* 7th edition (1975) chapter 19, p.252, in considering what should be judged an escape, stated that there had to have been an actual arrest and that the arrest, imprisonment and any continued imprisonment had to be justifiable. In accordance with that authority, *Archbold Pleading, Evidence and Practice Criminal Cases* 40th edition (1979) paragraph 3428 stated that to establish the offence the prosecution had to prove that the constable had had the prisoner in actual custody under a lawful warrant.

It was quite clear that the lawfulness of the detention was a necessary precondition for the offence of permitting an escape. It was also well established that the courts would not presume the existence of facts which were central to an offence: see *R v Willis* (1972) 12 Cox CC 164 and *Scott v Baker* (1969) 1 QB 659.

## Queen's Bench Division

## Wife in refuge is homeless

Regina v Ealing London Borough, Ex parte Sidhu  
Before Mr Justice Hodgson  
[Judgment delivered January 21]

The fact that a woman is accommodated at a refuge for battered wives can be a local authority's refusal to treat her as a homeless person under section 1 of the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act 1977. In addition, where she is residing with her dependent children, the local authority was not entitled to require her to obtain a final custody order in respect of the children before treating her as a person in priority need of accommodation under the Act.

Mr Justice Hodgson so held in the Queen's Bench Division on January 21 when granting an application by Paramjit Kaur Sidhu for declarations that she was a homeless person in priority need of accommodation within the meaning of section 21(1A) of the Act; that she had become neither homeless nor threatened with homelessness intentionally within the meaning of section 17 of the Act; and that the London Borough of Ealing were in breach of their duties under the Act.

Mr Andrew Arden for Mrs Sidhu; Mr Patrick Clarkson for the London Borough of Ealing.

MR JUSTICE HODGSON said that Mrs Sidhu's marriage first ran into difficulties in 1979 when her husband ran into arrears. In January 1981 she was thrown out of the house after being assaulted by her husband. After family intervention and reconciliation was effected. In March 1981 she, her husband and two young children were evicted from their home and accommodated by order of the court.

They applied to the local authority under the Act and the local authority took no steps to decide that they were both intentionally homeless. They were provided with temporary accommodation and at the end of April 1981 got accommodation in one room of a private house.

Mrs Sidhu was again subjected to violence until finally in July 1981 she left her husband and was given accommodation in a refuge for battered wives.

That refuge was not in the London Borough of Ealing. Like all other refuges it was under extreme pressure, but the applicant and her children were fortunate in having a room of their own.

In August 1981 Mrs Sidhu had an interview with an officer of the homeless families unit of Ealing borough who was seen to accommodate her. On September 1, 1981, she was granted interim custody care and control of the two children by the court. A few days later she heard that her husband had gone to India. A copy of the court order was sent to the local authority.

On September 29, 1981, as a result of a telephone conversation, Mrs Sidhu's solicitors wrote to the local authority stating that they understood that the authority was not prepared to rehouse her until a full custody order had been granted, and asking if that was correct.

The local authority replied that the applicant was not to be considered for permanent rehousing until a full custody order had been granted, pointing out that she had been reconciled with her husband after a separation earlier in the year. The family had been evicted for rent arrears and made intentionally homeless in March 1981, and that she would be considered as a separate unit once legal proceedings had been completed.

From that letter it was clear that the local authority were not prepared even to contemplate their statutory duty under the Act until what they were pressed to call a "full custody order" was granted.

The solicitor drew the court's attention to the fact that the Council, Ex parte Lewis (1981) 1 WLR 326 and also to that which they plainly knew, namely that under section 2 (1) (b) of the Act

the applicant and her children as a separate unit were unintentionally homeless, having been forced to leave when threatened with violence.

Receiving no reply the solicitors wrote again asking the local authority to provide a statement under section 8 of the Act.

The local authority replied that the applicant would be assessed in her own right and would not be assessed intentionally homeless once she had become a separate unit, but that she could not be assessed as such until she was legally separated from her husband and had obtained custody of the children, until which time she was still part of the original family unit.

They also claimed that the provision of accommodation at the refuge in priority need was not an adequate discharge of their duties under section 3 (4) of the Act and stated that the authority were still investigating with homelessness intentionally within the meaning of section 17 of the Act; and that the London Borough of Ealing were in breach of their duties under the Act.

They also claimed that the provision of accommodation at the refuge in priority need was not an adequate discharge of their duties under section 3 (4) of the Act and stated that the authority were still investigating with homelessness intentionally within the meaning of section 17 of the Act; and that the London Borough of Ealing were in breach of their duties under the Act.

His Lordship said it was plain from that letter that the local authority had no access to law and was still investigating with homelessness intentionally within the meaning of section 17 of the Act; and that the London Borough of Ealing were in breach of their duties under the Act.

It was difficult to imagine a more flagrant failure by a local authority than the letter implied. There was nothing about the factual situation which it was required to investigate.

The solicitors wrote to the local authority informing them that they intended applying to the court for judgment and the local authority replied that Mrs Sidhu was "not for the time being homeless".

Before the court the local authority submitted that Mrs Sidhu and her children were not homeless under section 1 of the Act, that they were being accommodated by the charity of the Women's Aid organization. It was deeply regrettable that the local authority had been seen to instruct counsel to put forward that submission which was totally unjustified.

His Lordship said it was important that refugees be seen as temporary crisis accommodation, and that women living in refuges were still homeless under the terms of the Act. If it was suggested that they were not homeless it would be necessary for voluntary organizations to issue immediate 28-day notices when women came in so that they would be under threat of homelessness.

That would be totally undesirable and would simply add stress to the women. If living in crisis accommodation took women out of the "homeless" category then the Act was being watered down and persons that it was set up to help would be in an extremely important position.

On the question whether Mrs Sidhu was in priority need of accommodation it was clear that she was in priority need if she had dependent children living with her. It was difficult to understand how the local authority could suggest that that was not so in the applicant's case. It was contended by the local authority that not only must they be satisfied that there were dependent children living with the applicant but they must also be satisfied that there was not

the slightest doubt but that the situation would continue.

There was not one word in the Act which would lead to such a conclusion. The wrong conclusion may have been arrived at because they applied the test of requiring a final custody order, which had nothing to do with what they were required to do under section 3(1) of the Act.

On the question whether Mrs Sidhu was intentionally homeless there was no doubt that "in the evidence and the surrounding circumstances the applicant's case should have been considered as separate from that of her husband, and no reasonable local authority could have come to any other conclusion but that she was not intentionally homeless."

The local authority were in breach of their statutory duty to make appropriate inquiries with due diligence and speed. In August 1981 they ought to have been satisfied that the applicant was homeless. Once they knew that she and her children were forced by violence to leave their accommodation and to seek refuge to the refuge any reasonable authority would have been so satisfied.

No reasonable authority knowing that she was living in a refuge in one room with two children could fail to be satisfied that she had a priority need or that their homelessness was unintentional.

The local authority should have accepted their responsibility under the Act. The difficulty which the local authority faced had been explained thus. There were apparently occasions when a spouse applied as a homeless person and as a separate unit from the other spouse who rendered them homeless. If that happened it was unjust as they "jumped the queue". In an attempt to avoid that situation the local authority had confused the making of inquiries into a factual situation with a legal one. Nothing would happen to change the factual situation.

There was nothing in the Act which would justify a delaying of inquiries to ensure that no change would take place in the future.

There was not the faintest suggestion of that in the applicant's case, but because of the worries local authorities had that the situation might change they had devised the expedient of asking for a final custody order. Not only was there not the faintest suggestion in the Act that they could take that into account but it seemed a wholly inappropriate test.

Custody frequently had nothing to do with dependence and residence. One party could have custody and the other have care and control. The suggestion that an applicant who had not got a final custody order could be taken out of the Act was totally wrong in law.

The danger that the Act could be used to circumvent the queue waiting for accommodation could not be avoided in that way, for any reasonable local authority think that it could.

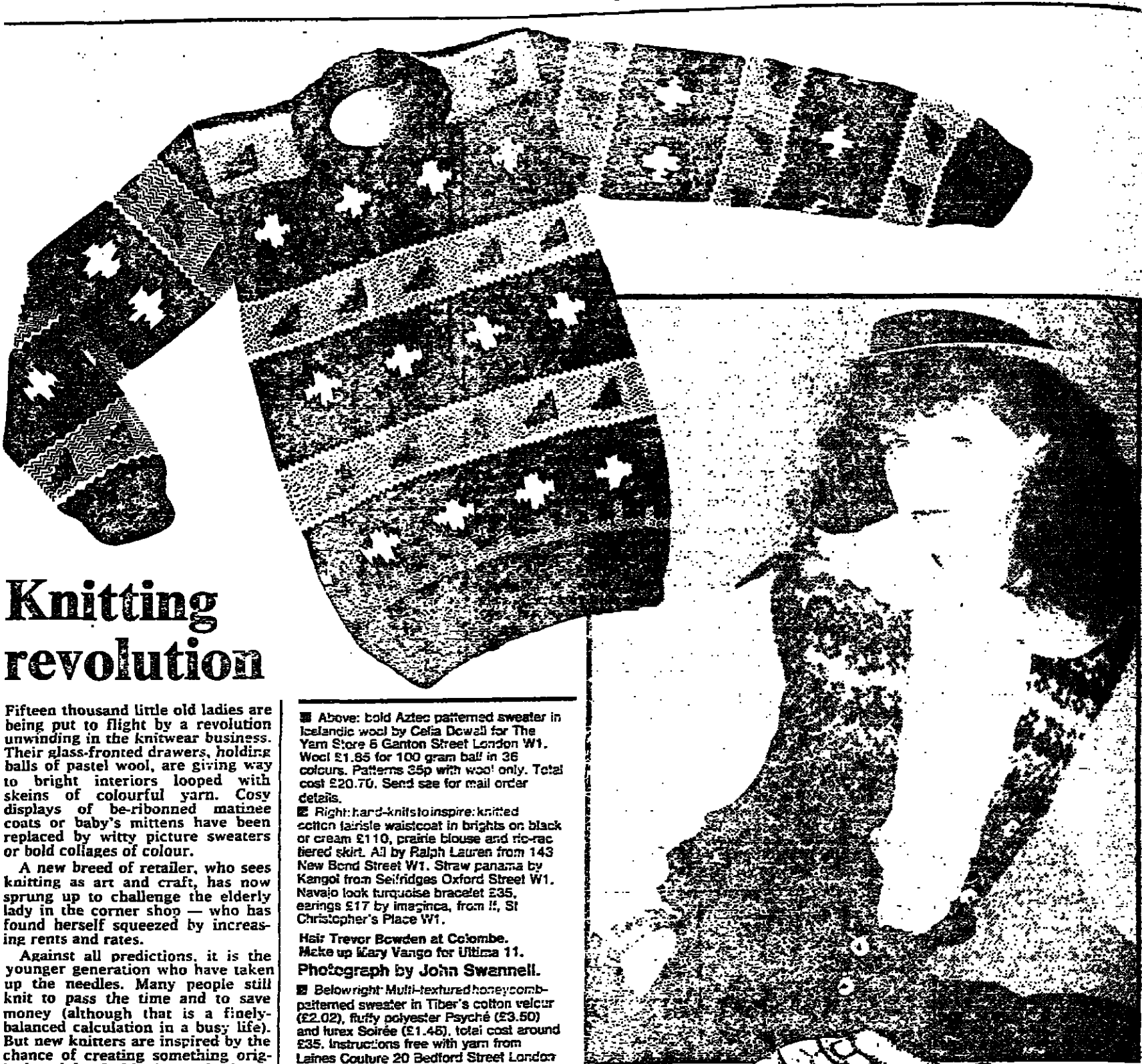
Solicitors: Darlington & Partners, Ealing; Mr N. L. Green, Ealing.

## Signatures not surplusage

Regina v Torri

The fact that a company's seal was a sufficient signature did not mean that other signatures could not be, or cease to be, material parts of the document; and accordingly it could not be argued that allegedly forged signatures were in any event surplusage that could not disclose an offence contrary to section 1 of the Forgery Act 1913. Lord Justice O'Connor (sitting with Mr Justice Phillips and Mr Justice McCowan) held in the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) on January 21.

## Hand-knit fashion by Suzy Menkes



## Knitting revolution

Fifteen thousand little old ladies are being put to flight by a revolution unwinding in the knitwear business. Their glass-fronted drawers, holding balls of pastel wool, are giving way to bright interiors looped with skeins of colourful yarn. Cosy displays of be-ribboned matinee coats or baby's mittens have been replaced by witty picture sweaters or bold collages of colour.

A new breed of retailer, who sees knitting as art and craft, has now sprung up to challenge the elderly lady in the corner shop — who has found herself squeezed by increasing rents and rates.

Against all predictions, it is the younger generation who have taken up the needles. Many people still knit to pass the time and to save money (although that is a finely-balanced calculation in a busy life). But new knitters are inspired by the chance of creating something original and by fashion's emphasis on hand-knits.

Colour and texture have been the major development in the yarn business over the last decade. Where once we were talking about a limited range of standard shades (based on blue, red and neutrals) the good yarn manufacturers now have colour ranges that could match a decorator's paint chart. The standard two-ply double knitting wools have been supplemented by clouds of soft mohair, balls of hard herringbone, tweed, marled and boucle yarns. Even thermal yarns, to give extra warmth without bulk and weight, have been produced by companies like Lister Lee.

The knitting trade descends on Harrogate this week for the Needlecraft Exhibition. They are beginning to realize that there is a world of difference between servicing those people who want to knit to a price, and inspiring lapsed or doubting knitters.

Rebecca and David Elliot of Laines Couture (20 Bedford Street, WC2) feel that the British knitting companies have not taken advantage of the new moods in knitting. Their wares are so tactile that I wanted to finger the glittering puffs of candy floss pink or multi-shaded skeins in earthy colours. Almost all their yarns are French, especially from Plassard and Tiber.

There is a general feeling in Laines Couture that this is an artists' emporium. Those simple souls who come in for a 20p pattern find that the inspiration is supposed to come not from a picture plate, but from the wool itself. If your creative skills do not run to a Joseph coat thrown off in your spare time, they stock those mouth-watering French pattern books and those done specially for magazines like *Cent Ideas* and *Elle*.

Patricia Roberts (15 Kensington Church Walk, W8 and 60 Kinnerton Street, SW1) started with the patterns. The seventh of her bi-annual knitting books comes out this week and illustrates nicely the transformation of the hand-knit look. Here are crunchy cotton-textured sweaters in intricate stitch-craft. There is a superb fairisle sweater knitted in a flower garden of silks. An extraordinary explosion of 1950s pattern and bobbly texture

■ Above: bold Aztec patterned sweater in Icelandic wool by Celia Dowell for The Yarn Store 6 Ganton Street London W1. Wool £1.65 for 100 gram ball in 36 colours. Patterns 35p with wool only. Total cost £20.70. Send see for mail order details.

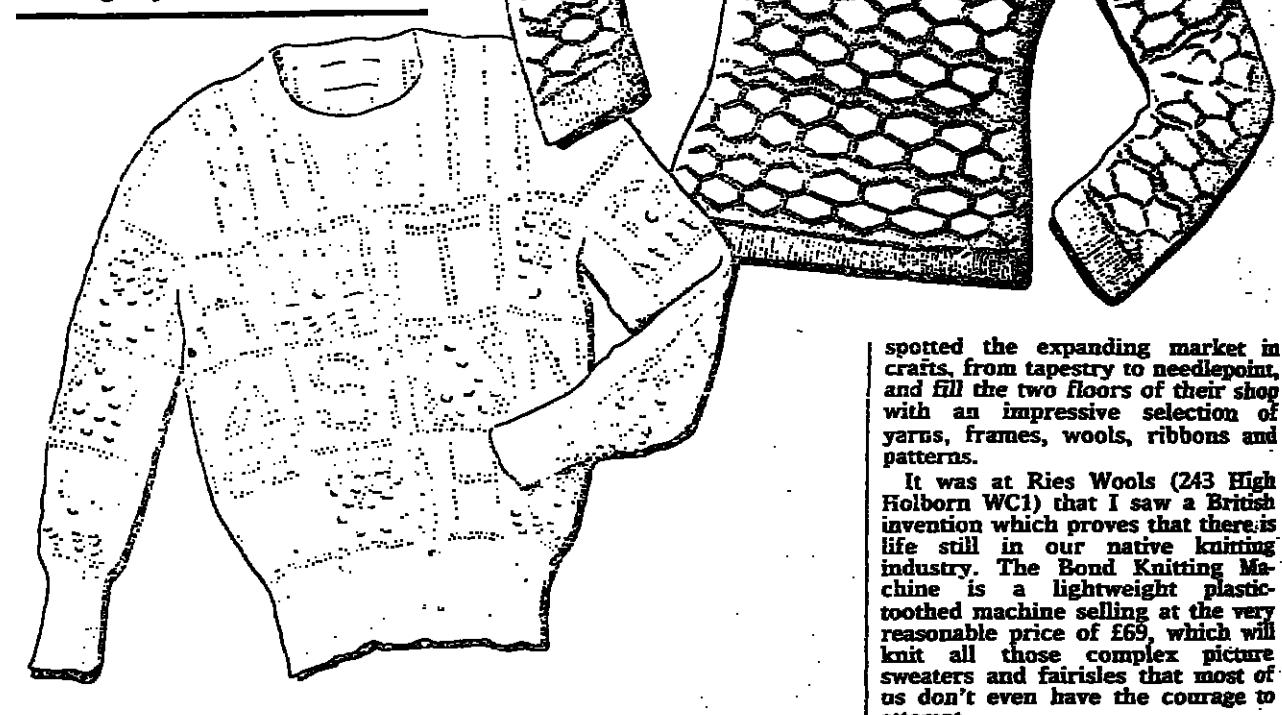
■ Right: hand-knit to inspire: knitted cotton fairisle waistcoat in brights on black or cream £11.00, prairie blouse and tie-dyed skirt. All by Ralph Lauren from 143 New Bond Street W1. Straw panama by Kangol from Selfridges Oxford Street W1. Navajo look turquoise bracelet £35, earrings £17 by Imagina, from it, St Christopher's Place W1.

■ Hair Trevor Bowden at Colombe. Make up Mary Vango for Ultima 11. Photograph by John Swannell.

■ Below: Multi-textured honeycomb patterned sweater in Tiber's cotton velour (£2.02), furry polyester Paycote (£3.50) and Laines Soiree (£1.45), total cost around £35. Instructions free with yarn from Laines Couture 20 Bedford Street London WC2. Send see for mail order details.

■ Below: crunchy lace and bobble sweater by Patricia Roberts from her new pattern book £1.65 from leading newsagents and knitting departments. In Woolybear Fine Cotton (55p, 17 shades) total cost £11.70. Or in Woolybear Pure Silk (£1.55, 10 shades) total cost £23.25. From Patricia Roberts 15 Kensington Church Walk W8 and 60 Kinnerton Street SW1, and mail order.

Drawings by Duncan Mill.



rub shoulders with a clutch of juggling clowns.

Their own knitting yarns now play an important part in the Patricia Roberts' shops (a new one opens in Covent Garden in April). At Harrogate this week they are introducing four more yarns (which wholesale throughout the country), including pure silk and 100 per cent cashmere.

Celia Dowell of the Yarn Store (3 Ganton Street, W1) started as a knitwear designer, graduated to menswear and to tailoring at the Royal College of Art, and opened her own shop last spring. With her partner Marie Bower, she produces simple but stylish patterns to make

up in their yarns, which include the satiny colour spectrum of the heavy Icelandic yarn and their own Super Chunky, at £1.95 a hank, which comes in stunning colours like fuchsia and egg yolk yellow. Celia claims that a first-time knitter can pick up the giant wooden chopsticks and turn out a sweater in just three evenings for around £23.

All the shops mentioned above do a brisk mail order business and seemed to me to offer a splendid service advising and helping their customers.

This service is also offered in some of the department stores and at a specialist shop like Rie's Wools of Holborn. Angela and Barry Rie's

spotted the expanding market in crafts, from tapestry to needlepoint, and fill the two floors of their shop with an impressive selection of yarns, frames, wools, ribbons and patterns.

It was at Rie's Wools (243 High Holborn WC1) that I saw a British invention which proves that there is life still in our native knitting industry. The Bond Knitting Machine is a lightweight plastic-toothed machine selling at the very reasonable price of £69, which will knit all those complex picture sweaters and fairisles that most of us don't even have the courage to attempt.

I don't think that confirmed hand-knitters who enjoy working with their hands will be seduced by any machine. But the Bond is light enough (4lb) to set up and small enough (38 inches long) to store. It is also simple to use for the basic knitting, although one of my testers found the ribbing trying to transfer tool or darning needle).

The machine has four different key plates, but it is especially designed for the thicker wools, which proves that inventor Roger Curry understands the mood and feel of current fashion as well as the age-old technique of knitting.

## Snippets

■ Sap seems to be rising in the blue-blooded veins of our British couture houses.

Hardy Amies' latest collection unveiled last week was full of crisp clothes, designed by Ken Flearwood — especially in the ready-to-wear section.

Fresh as a flag in red, white and blue, with outbreaks of sunny yellow, were linen jackets, casual knitted cotton jumpers and shorts in cotton pique or linen, worn with seersucker blazers.

Really long printed cotton skirts with defined waists, worn with camisole tops or cotton voile T-shirts made pretty and informal summer evening clothes.

The couture clothes were inevitably more formal and in rather heavier weights. Real spring suits came in Prince of Wales checks, unusually coloured in lilac, which was a theme of the collection.

I am sure that the late Norman Hartnell, with his twinkling sense of humour, would admire the courage of his designated designer Annette Harvey, who included two pretty cotton maternity dresses in the Spring collection and entitled them "Great Expectations".

Most of Hartnell's clients

(royal and otherwise) are probably past child-bearing age. But Annette Harvey, in the first collection she has designed entirely on her own, brought youth and vigour.

Her culotte skirts, carefully cut with a wrap panel at the front so as not to frighten the horses, looked well as part of a tweed couture suit or in soft silk for ready-to-wear.

The pretty ruffled style of the Princess of Wales was echoed in the evening dresses, both the formal chiffons decorated with sequins and the more relaxed evening culottes.

Yves Saint Laurent deserves more than a footnote for his place in twentieth century fashion. His translation of men's tailoring to the female body gave fashion the pin-striped suit and the tuxedo. His witty eye drew the see-through blouse and the 1940s revival into the orbit of high fashion.

He celebrates this week his twentieth birthday (the House, not the man) and has thereby the opportunity, given to so few of us, of collecting his own tributes and reading in advance his obituary.



Navy and white striped cotton blazer, voile T-shirt and pique shorts from Hardy Amies ready-to-wear. About £145, £45, £75 from 14 Seville Row.

Flower sprigged cotton maternity smock by Annette Harvey for Norman Hartnell ready-to-wear. Price £30 from 26 Bruton Street.



THE ARTS

Galleries

# The architecture of showmanship

**Magnificent Matcham**  
Lyric, Hammersmith

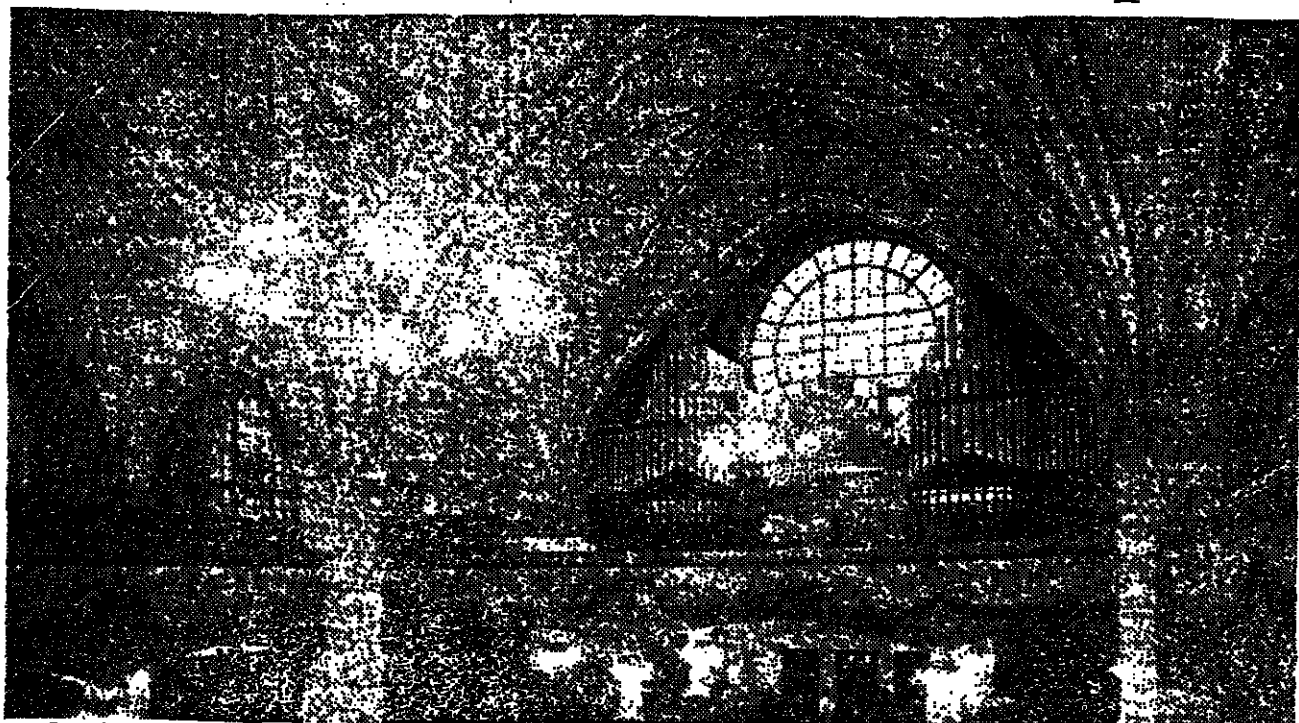
**Lars Sonck**  
Heinz Gallery

**Lubetkin and Tecton**  
Museum of Modern Art, Oxford

**Sabaudia, Citta Nuova Fascista**  
Architectural Association

Exhibitions used to be primarily a way of putting a number of things together to be seen by the public; display, at any rate in the art exhibitions, was very much a subsidiary consideration. One would notice, of course, whether the pieces were well or ill lit, whether they were related in some useful way to one another or just left to fend for themselves. But the exhibition as an art form in its own right was developed (unconsciously to begin with) in the service of commerce and political propaganda. It was no doubt inevitable, from the moment when Pop Artists began making art out of other people's art, and assemblages, installations and environments became favoured art forms, that the exhibition itself should be seen in a similar light: an installation in which the artist was the deviser, using the art-works of others to make a new art-work of his own.

Most of the new breed of historical shows which has been sweeping across Europe in the last couple of years seem to belong to this class: they are certainly not primarily art shows, but use works of art along with all sorts of other things to create a total picture or argue a particular point. If the art critic has anything legitimate to do at them (and if not he, then who?), it is as much as anything to judge the exhibition itself as a work of art. With exhibitions on architecture the situation is less clear-cut. Though architectural exhibitions have been a feature of the art scene for many years, they have seldom been much more than shows of photographs, with the odd original drawing or artist's rendering of a project thrown in whenever possible. With the Hayward Gallery's *utopias* show (which, by the way, you have until Sunday to catch if you have not seen it already) architectural



The interior of Tampere Cathedral, Sonck's first big success; and (right) the town hall and square of Sabaudia

shows finally hit the big time in this country: largely by dint of showing us just how the work of one artist could be evoked through the work of another (or a team of them) whose medium is the exhibition itself.

It is interesting to look at some of the other shows at present devoted to architecture in this light. The most modest of them all, *Magnificent Matcham*, in the stalls lobby of the Lyric, Hammersmith, until February 6, is in one respect at least way ahead of the rest: it can actually show a big piece of Matcham's work directly, in the form of the transplanted, slightly modified and lavishly refurbished auditorium of the theatre where the show is located. You can walk straight from the evocation to the real thing. Undoubtedly that helps. Frank Matcham has hardly been one of the better known late Victorian architects, since he worked almost entirely in that until recently despised architectural form the theatre. And yet it cannot be said of the man who designed, *inter alia*, the Coliseum, the Palladium, the Hippodrome (now Talk of the Town) and the Victoria Palace that he failed to leave his mark on the London townscape. And it turns out that he did the same for an incredible number of provincial towns and cities: between 1879 and 1912 he designed more than 150 theatres.

Its main exhibit apart, the Matcham show is a little nest of photographs and documents installed, visually isolated, in the antiseptic new lobby — which he

would have detested — to the old auditorium. At the entrance there is one further piece of the real thing, however: a rather lurid plaster figure of an Indian god (why Indian? well, why not?) such as decorates the front of the main boxes in another recently restored Matcham masterpiece, the Grand Opera House, Belfast. It is more solid than anything the organizers of the Lars Sonck exhibition at the Heinz Gallery of the R.I.B.A. (21 Portman Square, until February 27) have been able to ship over from Finland. But they do have some absolutely beautiful drawings, usually (as is so often the way) of unexecuted projects and unsuccessful entries for architectural competitions.

Though Sonck had his share of such, that did not prevent him, as anyone who has ever visited Helsinki will attest, from leaving an indelible impression on that city and on Finnish architecture in general. Outside Finland his name is scarcely known: Saarinen and Aalto seem to be as many Finnish architects as the world can absorb. Partly this is due to the very curious style in which his earlier buildings were designed. Finland had its own local brand of Art Nouveau/Jugendstil/Secession art around the turn of the century, known as the National Romantic Movement. Sonck's first notable buildings, which date from the 1900s, belong right in the middle of that. The banking hall of the Helsinki Privatbanken, for instance, with its giant, clumpy columns and monumental carved capitals, looks more like the

setting for a Sibelius tone-poem than somewhere one might do something so mundane as to cash a cheque.

It was a good style for cathedrals — Sonck's first big success was Tampere Cathedral (1900) — modifying gothic forms as radically and peculiarly as Gaudi was doing in Barcelona; Sonck applied it with equal success to hospitals and the offices of the Helsinki Telephone Company. Though clearly belonging to the international Art Nouveau, it scorns the famous sinuous line (at most, one or two might be incised on a monumental slab) and goes off darkly on its own. In any case, by the end of the decade Sonck had moved beyond it: in 1911 he was already working in his own neo-classical style which looks forward to Art Deco. For anyone who does not already know his work the show (accompanied by a very useful monograph in Finnish and English, £6) should be an eye-opener — though it opens our eyes in a very modest, self-effacing sort of way.

Sonck's work was nationalist, when that was not a dirty word, but not political or polemic. By the Thirties it was difficult to avoid being either — at least by implication. Not that Lubetkin or the builders of Sabaudia had the least desire to avoid it: rather, they welcomed it with open arms. The titles of the shows devoted to them are indication enough: Lubetkin and Tecton: Architecture and Social Commitment at the Oxford Museum of Modern

Art until February 28; Sabaudia, Citta Nuova Fascista at the Architectural Association, 34 Bedford Square, until February 13.

If the name of Lubetkin does not ring any bell, I am sure the image of the Penguin Pond at London Zoo does. Built in 1934, this whimsical yet at the same time highly practical structure, with its two curved ramps elegantly intersecting in the middle, was for some time the perfect plain man's introduction to modern architecture. But Lubetkin and the office he worked with in Britain, Tecton, had more to them than that.

Russian by birth and early training, Lubetkin was sent to Berlin in 1922 to help spread the word of progressive Soviet art, worked subsequently in Vienna, Warsaw and Paris, where he was in charge of realizing the designs on the spot for the Russian sections of the 1925 Exposition des Arts Decoratifs, and then from 1931 lived and worked in Britain. He was and remains of Socialist persuasion, convinced that architecture must serve a social purpose; his withdrawal from the architectural scene in 1950 was so complete one must presume it was dictated by disillusion. The show is, as befits the theme, a little dry and didactic, but the materials available are very rich, and from them it conjures up a powerful image of the times, how they struck one man, and what he tried, very determinedly, to do about it. Sabaudia is all image-making. In

the early Thirties the Italian government decided to cap its achievement in draining the Pontine Marshes by building on the land five new towns, and held a competition for this biggest Sabaudia, which was to be conceived all of a piece, to the glory of the regime as much as for the use of its inhabitants. A group of young Roman architects, Piccinato, Montuori, Cancellotti and Scapellato, won the award; the foundation stone was laid on August 5, 1932, and by April 1934 the town centre was ready for royal inauguration. To judge by the splendid array of photographs, contemporary and recent, plans and architect's drawings assembled at the A.A.A., the experience of Sabaudia must be very peculiar. Like walking through a classic Chirico, perhaps, or at any rate a setting which might have been specially devised for someone to feel alienated in during an Antonioni film.

What, now, are the Fascist Party Headquarters, the Fascist Militia Barracks and the Club for Fascist Youth used for? Presumably much the same, only with a different political complexion or no political complexion at all. Nevertheless, the period flavour is overwhelming: surely here, if anywhere, candles are secretly lighted for the Duce in the dead of night, like a aesthetic time capsule, long after the regime is dead its own necropolitic monument lingers on.

John Russell Taylor

Opera

## The end of a San Franciscan era

The matinee of *Carmen* which he conducted marked the finale of Kurt Herbert Adler's reign as the benevolent dictator of the San Francisco Opera. During his 29 years he has nurtured it from an undistinguished provincial rep to what is arguably one of the five or six best opera companies in the world. In its annual autumn season San Franciscans have come to expect productions drawn from an extensive repertoire that are imaginative, ingenious, decently rehearsed. They are interpreted by some of the best artists in the world, and supported by a large and able local company.

More venturesome than any other American opera impresario, Mr Adler has mounted 102 new productions since 1952, including 13 operas new to the United States. He has introduced a great number of distinguished singers to the country, and it is here that the designer-director Jean Pierre Ponnelle has been persuaded to make his American base. Through his network of subsidiary troupes, Mr Adler has fostered many important careers. He has balanced budgets, placated donors and city fathers and made San Francisco into nearly as serious an "opera town" as his native Vienna. The large house is regularly sold out, and audiences have been educated to an unusual degree of musical sophistication.

Much of this has been achieved by his blend of adroitly measured belligerence and charm. He has chewed up subordinates, negotiated like a Metternich, taken insane risks in casting and attended personally to a million trivial details. He clearly enjoyed all his power and his honours: he wore his medals to galas, and screamed insults, as he kissed hands, with genuine Habsburg style. He will not be soon forgotten.

It is no secret that Mr Adler cajoled a number of operatic luminaries into returning to San Francisco in his final season in return for past favours: his homage. His successor, Terry McEwen (formerly classical music director of London Records), is unlikely soon to be able to duplicate Adler's autumn 1981 line-up: Joan Sutherland, Montserrat Caballe, Teresa Berganza, Fiorenza Cossotto, Luciano Pavarotti, Placido Domingo and Wolfgang Brendel; in addition, Birgit Nilsson, Marilyn Hor-



Adler bows out after "Carmen", with Hanna Schwarz

ne, Leontyne Price, Margaret Price, Reri Grist, Leonie Rysaneck, Anja Silja, Geraint Evans, Jess Thomas, Stuart Burrows and James King were all, in effect, returning to the scene of their first American triumphs. Less than 24 hours after his last performance, in San Francisco on holiday, was pressed by an urgent telephone call from Mr Adler into singing a replacement Siegmund at two hours' notice.

I did not hear that particular *Die Walkure*. But both productions I saw were proudly impressive, primarily because the opera orchestra, under an inspired Omar Suitor, excelled itself in a performance of the score as subtle as it was strong. Every instrumental solo or section entry seemed virtuosic, challenging as well as supporting the singers.

Birgit Nilsson, at 63, no longer creates an unfailingly beautiful sound. Her attack on a note can be shrill, her vibrato uneven. But no one singing possesses such overwhelming power. The alternate Brunnhilde, Eszter Kovacs from Budapest, seemed a more plausible daughter, a less possible Valkyrie. She can emit single sustained notes that combine

great purity and great volume. But notes in between were lost, and I feared for the future of a voice so audibly strained.

Highest honours in this *Walkure* went to Leonie Rysaneck's Sieglinde. She sang with even and effortless power, and a radiant effluence of tone, and she looked beautiful. Her scheduled partner was James King, a noble, persuasive and full-voiced Siegmund.

The new *Carmen* was notable mainly for Jean-Pierre Ponnelle's stunning sets and (as usual) disputable innovations. It was performed for the first time in San Francisco with spoken French dialogue, which some singers had mastered and others had not. The Ponnelle sets were based on the conceit of one immense, sunshaded wall, which rolled on tracks past the wings to become the outside of the barracks, the cigarette factory and (with a deeply cut series of arches receding to the back of the house) the bullfight arena. A piece of this same wall, scribbled over with graffiti, even emerged among the rocks of the mountain pass in Act III.

Ponnelle made his soldiers more scruffy, cynical and



Adler bows out after "Carmen", with Hanna Schwarz

drunken than usual. His foul garters collapsed at their break like depraved man-haters. The colourful (wonderfully directed) crowd were dominated by a raggle-taggle band of cowering children. Sides of beef and loads of manure were bawled, Zeffirelli-fashion, across the stage. Zuniga (who is killed by Don Jose) struts about in dark glasses. A flamboyant Dancalio terrorizes the gypsies into line, directs their lowering of a giant cannon over the cliff, and joins in their mockery of poor Miccala — who watches Carmen's murder at the end from a window in the arena.

It does not all make sense, but it is all very Ponnelle. With the second set of leads (Placido Domingo and Hanna Schwarz), all this wifely gritty naturalism — which is very far indeed from the romantic fancies of Bizet and his librettists — was enhanced by musical and dramatic conviction. On the whole, I thought it not the most congenial vehicle for the retiring director to conduct. Mr Adler will, we are assured, be back in the pit, if not in the upstairs office, in seasons to come.

David Littlejohn

LSO/Previn

Festival Hall

A friend of Brahms, the poet S. H. Mosenthal, said the composer was only happy when singing "My Joy is in the Grave". That was a somewhat inappropriate exaggeration, but an airy performance of Mozart's A major Symphony, K 201, by Andre Previn and the London Symphony Orchestra on Sunday still made a somewhat inappropriate prelude to Brahms's *Ein Deutsches Requiem*.

All of which is ungrateful no doubt, as he intended the work as a consolation to the living, and Mr Previn's tempos were such as to avoid turpitude. This was particularly noticeable in the 3/4 march movements, "Denn alles Fleisch es ist wie Gras", and also in the opening "Selig sind die da Leid tragen". Here the choral lines were firmly secure in their rises and falls, and indeed the dynamics of the London Symphony Chorus were good throughout, there being no exaggeration of hushed reverence in the quiet passages but plenty of power in the loud, most obviously in the march piece.

There was excellent dovetailing at many points in this performance, as between organ and orchestral bass-lines, or the placing of the important trumpet contributions to "Denn alles Fleisch". Similarly in "Herr lehre doch mich" the violin counterpoint to the choral tenors at "Ich hoffe auf dich" was beautifully distinct. John Shirley Quirk was in expressive voice in this movement as was Sheila Armstrong in the ethereal "Ihr habt nun Traurigkeit". And the LSO trombones were unobtrusively impressive in the quantity of soft passages Brahms provided for them.

Max Harrison

RPO/Shostakovich

Festival Hall

Maxim Shostakovich came to the rescue of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra on Sunday afternoon after two other conductors had become disengaged. Placido Domingo decided to save his debut in this capacity for an operatic occasion, probably at Covent Garden, though it is not yet known if he will sing in it as well. And, more disturbingly, Witold Rowicki, who was to have replaced him, was unable to leave Poland.

All that remained of the original programme then was

Concerts

Kyung-Wah Chung and the G minor Violin Concerto of Max Bruch, which she has made more romantic but less sentimental in the ten years or so since I first heard her play it. The violin's crucial entry in the slow movement, stealing in on the breath of the famous tune, had the requisite rapidness and wonder from which the beauty later stemmed.

It is in the finale that the soloist has now found her way to a brighter and fuller sense of musical character, with an absolute security of intonation that helps her take all commands of technique in her stride. The performance also conveyed a rapport with the orchestra which the conductor fully sustained in the alert ensemble that was also apparent at the start in Mussorgsky's *Night on the Bare Mountain*.

The symphony was changed to Tchaikovsky's fifth, wherein the conductor well knew the secret of letting the letter of the music generate the emotional temperature without pulling it about. Warmth and affection disciplined his occasional windy rhetoric; concern for detail clarified both colour and content, of which Jeffrey was solo hour and Prudence Whittaker's clarinet were but the most distinctive.

Noël Goodwin

Debuts

London

The Dutch harpsichordist Ton Koopman appears in this column only because he happens not to have given a solo recital in London before. Elsewhere he already enjoys an international reputation as "Holland's baroque superstar" (to quote the handbill), and the exuberant brilliance and imaginative boldness of his playing at once explained why. In demonstrative outings with Sweelinck, Picchi and Rossi such high-powered, temperamental pursuit of virtuosity and colour at times almost overstrained the resources of the instrument itself (a 1978 Kroesbergen after Ruckers). Even in more reflective pieces such as Purcell's Ground and a Chaconne in C by Couperin his immediacy and generosity of feeling found expression in much richer sonority than commonly heard from a harpsichord. Bach's Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue, its contrapuntal argument expounded with exceptionally serious clarity and control, came as a reminder of the scholarly thinker behind the firebrand.

It was easy to understand why the violinist Kuniko

Nagata has collected many prizes in and beyond her native Japan. While never lacking ardour in climaxes, with warm, ripe tone and pungent attack to uphold it, at the same time she always retained a classical poise and finesse. Bartok's Rhapsody No 1 was particularly impressive for this blend of intensity and refinement. Perhaps in the lyricism of Faure's first sonata (not least in the trio of its Scherzo) her phrasing needed nuances a little more personal. But this performance, too, presaged a touch more flamboyance in the London platform for this winningly natural young musician.

Australia was represented by the guitarist Timothy Kain, who with his controlled delicacy of fingerwork and purity of phrasing made Bach's third lute suite as eloquent as any symphony-of-a-thousand. Britten's Dowland-inspired *Nocturnal*, Op 70, benefited no less from artistic sensitivity. Though a touch more flamboyance would not have come amiss in Guiliani's *Rossinianna* No 1, this operatic potpourri was also outstanding for subtle shading and rhythmic and textural control.

In outrageous all-American programme the pianist Nanette Kaplan Solomon, now an assistant professor in Pennsylvania, played with a commanding masculine strength and determination admirable when the music itself could take it as in the drama of MacDowell's *Sonata Tragica* and the more insistent climaxes of Copland's Variations, but which in other contexts seemed too inflationary and clangy-toned a touch more flamboyance would not have come amiss in Guiliani's *Rossinianna* No 1, this operatic potpourri was also outstanding for subtle shading and rhythmic and textural control.

The week's only British debutants were the co-winners of the I.S.M.'s National Westminster Bank recital. The pianist Caroline Palmer made an outstandingly vivid impression in Ginastera's Sonata (admittedly not the profoundest test) with her clear-cut brilliance, rhythmic alacrity and keen ear for atmospheric sonority. Though describing herself as a contralto, Susan Mason lacked body in the depths while soaring freely and fleetly in mezzo-soprano territory. An eager teller in Purcell, Schubert and Strauss, she was always more persuasive in heightened drama or rapture than in intimate brooding despite promising control of line.

Joan Chissell

Television

## Friendly force

After three episodes of BBC1's *Police* I had come to the conclusion that if, by some monstrous miscarriage of justice, I were to come in conflict with the law, I would sooner it were not in the Thames Valley area, where Messrs Roger Cray and Charles Stewart have been poking around for this series.

What worried me about the last programme — the rape incident — was that, if that was how Thames Valley police dealt with an allegation of rape, what guarantee was there that they would be any less inept with anything else?

Last night we tracked back to the Reading Pop Festival of 1960, a testing time surely for any force. Trains, cars, buses and bikes brought in 30,000 music-lovers, a fair number favouring the kind of studded leather ornamentation that, in my youth, was thought proper only for brewery horses. Dull it could not be. And it was not.

We saw the police being briefed. So far as drugs were concerned, they were not looking for a cricket score; they were looking for dealers and suppliers. Officers were exhorted to remember that their behaviour would create lasting impressions, to steer clear of the hospital tent so that users suffering from bad effects would not be deterred from seeking treatment.

We saw the drug squad at work, fairly friendly frisking, and then, alarmingly, a gathering mob as someone was arrested and put in a police car. No one would want the job at a time like that, to try reason against numbers on a hot day when the drink and maybe many other stimulants have been flowing. But there was no punch-up and trouble was averted, the mob turning to song.

Gratifying one of the leathery, sweat-banded types heard telling some policeman: "I nearly joined your mob once but I had different ideas on retribution from what you lot have. I'm strictly an eye-for-an-eye, a tooth-for-a-tooth." He was right about not joining, that is, he was right in the opinion on this day in Reading it was New Testament stuff only. There were arrests and hope from the drug squad — for this is Operation Julie country — that they were on to a big catch, but what was thought to be LSD turned out to be semolina and meant for fraud.

On the whole it was, given the numbers and the occasion, fairly peaceable and reassuring. It was all done with 200 policemen, about 25 in the drugs squad and wearing clothes that might well have got them frisked outside their own division. An A-plus for Thames Valley on this one. Now it is only the thought of that music that would keep me away. This was the first of Cray and Stewart's programmes that will not raise a press pursuit of some kind, but they are a long way from finished and *Police* is now a "must" programme.

BBC's *West Country Tales* which started last night with the first of seven strange tales submitted by viewers in BBC South-West, may not achieve that rating but, on this showing, it should be entertaining enough. Last night's tale, a true story submitted by a clergyman who chooses anonymity, concerned the weird experiences of an overworked priest dispatched to take a holiday in a peaceful village.

The devil, who, we know, never takes a holiday and is not terribly pleased with this priest's unremitting efforts to tweak his tail, goes along too, with alarming consequences for the tail-tweaker. The battle ended happily but, presumably, not the way Keith Barron made a good job of the priest and it was well produced and directed by John King.

Dennis Hackett

Leo McKern, star of the television series *Rumpole of the Bailey*, returns to the West End in *The Housekeeper*, a new play by Frank D. Gilroy which opens at the Apollo Theatre on February 25, with previews from February 22. The play opens at the Theatre Royal, Brighton, tonight.

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# Why the Tory wets should dry up

Archie Hamilton, MP, writes an open letter pointing out the short-sightedness of Conservative colleagues who are disenchanted with Mrs Thatcher's policies

Dear Wet Colleagues,

I thought I would write to try to cheer you up as you seem to have been very nervous and unhappy lately. On the surface, things do not look too rosy. The economy seems to be taking longer to turn around than anyone expected. Unemployment remains stubbornly high. The SDP has done remarkably well despite the sense of any very visible policies. Your seat looks increasingly vulnerable, and it may be that you are hoping, for the first time in your life, that the Labour vote will hold up in your constituency, and so keep out the SDP at the next election.

You have suggested to me that we steal the clothes of the SDP and watch the voters return. I can quite see the temptation to make a dash for the apparent safety of what you call the centre. But the SDP have no clothes. They appeal to the electorate because they have not yet settled their policies. When they do, they will suffer an inevitable alienation as many people find they disagree with them.

In any case, drifting towards the position of the opposition parties is hardly likely to do us any good at the polls. If we adopt the policies of the opposition we are endorsing their claim to govern and inviting the voters to follow our example and support them.

There is another question I suggest you consider. Where is the Government? Has it adopted any very right-wing policies? It has not cut public expenditure but increased it. It has not banned the closed shop. It has not denationalized education or health. I wish that it had done all of these things, as do many voters, but it is, in fact, very much a government of the centre.

This message is certainly not getting across well enough. And frankly, you are not helping by publishing pamphlets critical of government policy and abstaining in important votes.

There is one thing I find it very hard to understand about you. I know you are a man of strongly held moral convictions. Therefore you must accept that there is no other possible economic policy than an honourable government could have introduced, given the appalling long-term structural problems of the economy. You must also recognize that the moral bones that the problems had to be faced squarely.

Now let us consider the pro-

posals you are urging on the Chancellor. Broadly, you want to see an expansionary budget to put about £5,000m into the economy so that economic activity will pick up and unemployment will go down. Laudable aims. But pumping money into the economy will not help our manufacturers enjoy sustained, wealth-creating growth.

Never would an expansionary budget really touch the unemployment problem. It might produce a small reduction for a short while, but when the inevitable surge in inflation took place another million could well be thrown out of work.

One of the claims you advance for your economic prescriptions is that they would be more humane. But the sufferings of the unemployed today are largely the result of wet policies adopted by successive governments during the last 20 years, both Labour and, I am afraid, Conservative.

If the Chancellor takes your advice, two things will happen. First, we will lose all credibility with the voters and they will be entitled to ask why they had to suffer exposure to the cold winds of economic reality if, all along,

our problems could have been solved by rationing. Second, the resulting inflation will destroy our credibility abroad, sterling will plunge, inflation will get worse, interest rates will have to go through the roof, all the very real improvements in our economic performance will have been thrown away.

Since I never hear you speak of the positive achievements of our Government, allow me, with the greatest respect, to remind you of them.

- Inflation is down from 22 per cent in 1980 to 12 per cent now. It will continue down, particularly if we have a sensible wage round this winter.
- Productivity is massively improved. There are many examples, not only in the private sector, but more surprisingly in the national industries: Leyland, British Steel, British Airways. Who would have thought in 1979 that British Steel would improve its output per man hour by 25 per cent overall and at two plants, Port Talbot and Llanwern, by nearly 50 per cent in three years?
- The volume of exports is rising

fast. When measured between February and September of last year, non-oil exports were up at six per cent on an annual basis.

- Industrial production was up 1.5 per cent in the last quarter of last year and housing starts are up substantially.
- We are getting our housekeeping right as well. At the last election, the country owed £22,000m to overseas creditors. It owes £14,000m now.

Perhaps most important of all, there is an entirely new atmosphere at work. Both management and workers have started, at last, to recognize that they have the same objectives. All over the country people are buckling down and solving their problems together. Look at the record. Fewer days lost last year than any year since 1967. Fewer industrial disputes in the last two years than at any time since 1940.

Britain is on course for a gradual but sustained export-led economic recovery. With these facts before you, dear colleagues, why not make it your maxim for 1982 to stop carping and start spreading the good news.

Archie Hamilton

The author is MP for Epsom & Ewell and Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Transport.



Roy Plomley (right) and two potential castaways: George Bernard Shaw said no, Paul McCartney gets marooned on Saturday.

## Forty years on the island

On Saturday, to the familiar sound of seagulls, Roy Plomley's mellow voice will be heard on Radio 4 announcing his 1,425th castaway. Paul McCartney and George Bernard Shaw said no, Paul McCartney gets marooned on Saturday.

Plomley will be 40 years old. It is the longest running programme under the same compere in the history of radio, so old that one of its first possible guests was Bernard Shaw. Then no one had heard of Roy Plomley. The invitation came back, scrawled along the bottom of the words: "No. Too busy with more important things. GBS". Few people, since, have resisted.

Like all inventors of a perfect idea, almost magical in its simplicity, Plomley remembers with absolute clarity the moment he dreamt it up. It was November 3 1941. He was back in London from France where, defying a 200-year family tradition in medicine, he had been working in commercial radio.

He was in his pyjamas on his way to bed when the notion came to him of inviting famous people to tell the world what music they liked best. Unlike most night-time inspirations, he decided not to put it off until the next morning: he typed the proposal and posted it. Sixteen days later the BBC replied: who would be his guests?

He had the list ready: Anna Neale, J. B. Priestley, Arthur Askey, Kay Cawendish. Two months later the comedian Vic Oliver then married to Winston Churchill's actress daughter Sarah — made history as the first castaway. He chose, Plomley recalls, *The Parade of the Wooden Soldiers* and some Chopin. Since that day the show has been the air of the radio, one period between 1947 and 1951. No other week has been missed.

Today the format is almost precisely what it was in 1942: a potted, slightly humorous autobiography, told by the guest, interspersed with two-minute extracts from eight favourite records. For the first ten years it was just music; then castaways were allowed to include one luxury, providing it had no practical use.

A few years later, came a book, not the Bible or Shakespeare because the Gideon Society and the Nonesuch had thoughtfully shirked them there first. Guests are not hard to come by. They need know nothing whatever about music, but they must be famous. As Plomley points out, a taste in music defines people, and in his 40 minutes he tries to give that "third dimension" to people in the media by two.

One of the few to refuse since GBS is Laurence Olivier, who courteously explains each time he is invited that while he will give interviews about acting, he will not speak about himself.

As a radio event, *Desert Island Discs* prides itself on its painlessness. There is no help and no rehearsal, but by the time the castaway is in the recording studio Plomley has done his homework: he has read much of whatever his guest may have written, boned up on newspaper cuttings, occasionally talked to mutual acquaintances.

The two are also by now friends. They have spent a pleasant day together, lunching (men at the Garrick, women at the Lansdowne), sifting through recordings and alternatives in the BBC's magnificent, still, subsequently named "grammy" library. Long before the red button switches to record, the castaway knows he is in for no nasty surprises.

Forty years have naturally provided a list of top favourites. In symphonies Bernstein's fifth, sixth and ninth, Dvorak's New World and Schubert's Unfinished, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Lara's Theme from Dr Zhivago* — as well as an enjoyable fund of anecdotes. There was, for instance, Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, seven of whose eight selections were of herself; the late Lord Thomson protested that he knew no music, then came up with eight 1930s dance numbers; Sir Arthur Bryant, wanted *Pat-a-Cake* by the Singing Dogs; Norman Mailer asked to take a stick of marijuana as his luxury and the explorer Duncan Carse wanted David Hockney and David Holbrook both chose pornography for their books; Harvey Smith declined one altogether, saying he had never met one.

The programmes have also provided Plomley with the framework for a happy life. Through *Desert Island Discs*, which takes two days of his week, he has made friends and acquired a considerable musical education, a quiet apart from money: he had the four years ago, to protect his idea, now used all over the world, by tight copyright.

It has left him the time to write 16 plays, a gossipy and predictably urbane book about the programme, and the confidence now to keep on writing. Genial and smiling, bald and round-faced, he lives in Putney, in a Victorian house, the lease down to the river and is, he says, about to fall down. His attic study is lined with encyclopaedias, works of reference, a dog-eared Kobbe's guide to opera, novels, biographies.

Plomley also has a birthday next week, but which it is he will not say. He never intends to retire. I am in that happy state that I do only the work I enjoy. I have no intention of stopping. One day they'll have trouble waking me, and that will be it. May that day be far distant, for *Desert Island Discs* would be unthinkable without him.

Caroline Moorehead

## Catching the classical bus

In Czechoslovakia a folk-singer has recently composed a ballad called *Nous l'istien*. The lyrics are in French: "Socrates has been tried, now he must pay the price; Such is the hero's lot, three cheers for cowardice." A police interrogator told one of the students arrested at Julius Tomin's seminar on classical philosophy in Prague: "Tell Tomin we'll get him — him and his Plato!"

An ironic remark in the circumstances: had the policeman known about Plato's enthusiasm for censorship, he might have called for more Plato, not less.

This information comes from *Omnibus*, an impressive new magazine about the ancient world designed primarily for sixth-formers.

Two numbers have already appeared, and a third is on the way. The editor, Oliver Taplin, a fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, is himself practised at traversing the ground between high scholarship and wider communication; the author of an academic 500-page blockbuster on *The Stagecraft of Aeschylus* (a snip at £20), he is also the man who told readers of *The Times* what to think about the *Oresteia*.

There has not been anything quite like this before. Some years back the used to be a magazine called *Acta Diurna*, written entirely in Latin, which covered the events of Roman history in the style and format of a modern newspaper. "Caesar nears Rubicon: what next?" It was great fun, but perhaps more appropriate to the time when many of those who learnt Latin learnt it early. Never realized, alas, was Paul Jennings's noble scheme for a Hollywood epic about ancient Rome scripted in the original language, in spite of the specimens of dialogue supplied by its originator, eg. *Met. debet audire* ("Honey, you've got to listen"). In its own very different way *Omnibus* is also sensitive to the places where the classics are relevant to modern interests and issues; the editor confesses that he tried to use to call the magazine *AD/BC*, "to bring out the indivisibility of past and present." A series called *The Classical Continuum* traces the small but intriguing ways in which the visual signs and symbols of the ancient world pervade our lives: the serpent of Asclepius in chemists' shops in central Europe, Mercury on the Interflora advertise-

ments, or, more piquantly, the fasses carved on Leeds Town Hall and engraved upon the old American silver dime, before Mussolini gave this ancient symbol a modern relevance of another kind.

*Omnibus* is resolutely topical in a variety of ways. The superb fifth-century Greek bronze recently discovered in the sea off Riace in southern Italy are illustrated. John Gould subtly investigates the feminism of Euripides' *Medea*, concluding that the heroine "makes sense, not as a woman but as fifth-century Athenians might have met in their waking experience, but as a figure they might have imagined — and feared." That makes the play seem very close to the anxieties awakened in our own society by the breakdown of traditional assumptions about male superiority.

In an advance extract from the forthcoming *Cambridge History of Classical Literature* Niall Rudd brings out the violence and insecurity that surrounded Horace in the life, things too often left out of the conventional picture of the poet as a middle-aged moderate. He observes also that the view of Horace as a model of polite good taste depends upon omitting two poems (so deliberately) discussing that commentators have often ignored them altogether.

Mike Brearley is interviewed and persuaded (with a little prodding) to explain how much the classics have meant to him; Denis Healey is to be the next to fill this slot. Kathy Wilkes describes the origin of Tomin's seminars, some of which she attended, and the story of their suppression. She argues that the authorities were rightly afraid of Tomin's teaching, freedom of inquiry being necessarily a threat to the regime's stability. That claim, which amounts to saying that a communist state cannot tolerate genuine academic work at all, is perhaps overstated; but like much more in *Omnibus*, it stimulates the reader to ask more questions.

The magazine reprints from a Sunday colour supplement a passionate plea by Bel Mooney for the retention of Latin in schools. *Omnibus* means "for all"; it will be splendid if the optimism implicit in the title proves justified.

Richard Jenkins

The rape line at New York City Police Headquarters rang. Detective Ellen King had been on duty for 15 minutes and it was the first call of the day.

She spoke softly, reassuringly, giving her name and rank. The sister of a teenage rape victim was on the line in distress — her sister was attacked three months ago and she was still reliving the crisis. But that was not the only problem.

"Our father won't talk about it," she said. "He refused to acknowledge that it happened. The subject is taboo. My sister is going crazy. We are all going crazy."

Detective King, aged 38, a former teacher, is one of 51 detectives in New York City assigned to four sex crimes squads. They are carefully selected for their manner: they are expected to be sensitive, patient and sympathetic.

Detective King listened for several minutes without interrupting. "It seems to me that your father needs counselling," she said eventually. "Let me give you some numbers to call. Do you mind if I send some literature to your sister so she knows where to go for help?"

The police had already investigated the case, without result. Detective King was not performing a strict police function by giving guidance to the young woman on the telephone. Yet she did so readily. She believes that helping rape victims and their families is just as important as catching the culprit.

### Picking up the vital black telephone

Each sex crimes unit is headed by a lieutenant and two or three sergeants. They investigate only first degree sexual assault and are responsible directly to the Chief of Detectives at police headquarters in Manhattan.

Most detectives in the rape squads are men. Detective King helps coordinate the work of the four units as well as sharing the task of answering the 24-hour rape line. Only a woman police officer ever picks up the vital black telephone — the role of a policeman comes later.

Most victims prefer to be interviewed by a male police officer. "It is reassuring, a short time after the attack, to speak to a man who is kind and helpful," Detective King said. "It helps get your

## Rape: a direct line to reassurance



Rape counselling, New York style: Detective Ellen King talks to a victim.

perspectives of men back into order. In cases of attacks on children or highly disturbed women we send a female officer."

One of the functions of the sex crimes units is the education of doctors in what is called "rape protocol", the collection of essential evidence to use in court against an accused man. Detective King arranges seminars for all rape detectives given by

psychologists, psychiatrists and lawyers.

She lectures women's groups on prevention and awareness. "It is essential to persuade rape victims to go to hospital immediately because there is nothing a jury likes better than firm evidence of trauma," she said. "If she delays for several days her story is less credible."

Persuading victims to

## Desmond Wilcox and 'The Jews': a BBC inquiry

The news that Desmond Wilcox, freelance television producer and husband of Esther Rantzen, is hoping to write and present a television series called "The Jews" has led to an internal inquiry in the BBC.

In May 1977 Louis Marks, another freelance producer at present working in the plays department of the BBC, submitted an idea entitled "The Jews" to Aubrey Singer, then controller of BBC 2. Singer liked the idea, asked him to develop it further and sent him to the United States to look for a suitable presenter.

By the autumn, Marks had done a full-scale treatment outlining a series of 13 programmes covering the whole field of the Diaspora. His intention was that he should write or produce series, or both. In October that year Singer thought that the time had come when the project should be moved forward and lodged with a programme department. He decided that a press announcement should be made saying that a series on the Jews was in preparation. Wilcox said an announcement would be premature.

Marks met Wilcox and all the material he had so far prepared — treatments, research, contacts — was handed to him together with a request that a press announcement should be made saying that a series on the Jews was in preparation. Wilcox said an announcement would be premature.

### Willing for Dylan

Richard Burton's devotion to Dylan Thomas has induced him to abandon his role as Richard Wagner for 24 hours and fly from Vienna, where he is filming a series about the composer, to London for a memorial concert in Thomas's honour. He is expected to appear as the narrator in an edited version of *Under Milk Wood*, directed by Douglas Cleverdon, in the second half of the concert at the Duke of Yorks Theatre on February 28.

The show, which will also feature Anthony Hopkins, Peter O'Toole, Hywel Bennett and Angharad Rees, has been arranged to help pay for the £5,000 marble plaque to Thomas in

## THE TIMES DIARY



Further bereavement in the animal kingdom as a reply to St Martin's Church, Launceston, yesterday of the death of Hamlet, the New York

Algonquin's famous cat. Daphne, the pectican, has gone to that great aviary in the sky after 25 years residence on Duck Island in St James's Park, London. An autopsy at London Zoo revealed that, like Hamlet,

she died from kidney failure. A present from the American State Air Command, Daphne arrived in London with Wilfred, another north American white pelican, was widowed in 1962. She was much admired by staff at the park for her determination to decline bread and other tidbits which the public offered despite the warning signs. In fact she was so fastidious that she refused the regulation mackerel diet and insisted on whiting.

She will be sorely missed.

Westminster Abbey's Poet's Corner and a replica at St Martin's Church, Launceston, Burton, however, will not be able to attend the unveiling the following day, St David's.

### Flying high

Lady Chichester unveiled an enterprising plan at her party last night to publish new editions of some of the books in which her husband Sir Francis, who died in 1972, recorded his extraordinary adventures.

The first of these, *Solo to Sydney*, about his flight to Australia in 1929 in a Gypsy Moth only five months after having turned to fly, is of particular sentimental value to Lady Chichester, née Sheila Craven. Chichester gave it to her as a wedding present in 1937. He and Sheila had met in Devon the year

before. She was a regular visitor to the golf course at Westward Ho and Chichester, who was staying nearby, was still recovering from a horrendous crash into the harbour at Katsura, Japan, in 1930 after flying into some telephone wires.

Lady Chichester told me: "I was staying with friends and one day Francis walked in. Somehow he had survived his injuries but he was still terribly nervous. Yet within a week he had asked me to marry him."

Lady Chichester, who has written a foreword to *Solo to Sydney* (Conway Maritime Press), reveals that her husband, though entranced by the idea of fresh achievements, did not always learn easily. She said: "I have seen him potently practising fly-fishing in a square in Chelsea, like Matisse, who said: 'I have drawn this line a hundred times before I got it right.'"

### Todd's return

Richard Todd, the square-jawed hero of some 50 films in the 20 years after the war (including a number in which he won it single-handed) has quietly returned to the West End stage where he last performed in *Depr Octopus* at the Haymarket in 1967. He has just replaced the equally suave Francis Matthews at the Duchess Theatre as Stone, the seedy little man obsessed with killing, in Richard Harris's thriller, *The Business of Murder*.

The chair, which is suitable for a child to use at normal table height, will be presented to the Prince at the opening of the Crafts Council gallery and information centre in London next

month. Paul Elliot in 1970. He travelled the world with *Triumph*, starring in *Roar Like a Dove*. *The Grass is Greener* A Christmas Carol and *The Winslow Boy* but last year he found himself suffering from homesickness for the West End.

"I'd had a beautiful of travelling and I told my agent it was time I came back to London. It's a take-over part, but it's such a good play," said Todd. "It may not be the sort of part you expect from me but at my age you look for challenges."

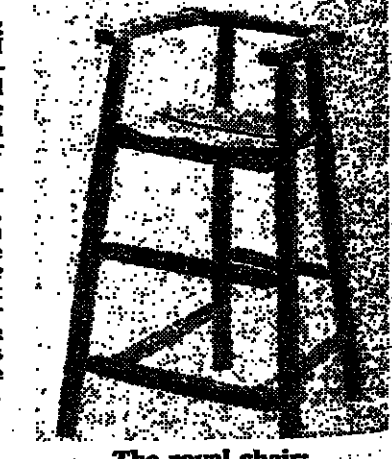
Now 62, Todd lives in Lincolnshire with his second wife, Virginia, a former model. Film lovers will recall him as the prickly Scots corporal in *The Hustler* in 1949, the part which established him as an actor. Every day during its making he was driven to the studio by another aspiring actor, Ronald Reagan.

### Royal seat

I trust that the high chair made here for the baby of the Princess of Wales by Richard Le Trobe Bateman, the West Country designer, will have safety features incorporated before it is presented to Prince Charles next month. Le Trobe Bateman, whose work is included in the Crafts Council's index of selected craftwork, has made it from an oak tree felled on the estate of the Marquis of Bath at Longleat.

The chair, which is suitable for a child to use at normal table height, will be presented to the Prince at the opening of the Crafts Council gallery and information centre in London next

month. But will it have a safety harness to it fitted by then or will this be left to the Princess of Wales to organize?



The royal chair safety harness?

### Unsuitable?

More disturbing news from Savile Row where I have reported that Huntsman, the bespoke tailors and shirt-makers, was to introduce a range of off-the-peg suits and overcoats. Now *Wool* of Mayfair is offering its customers free cloth for any suit they order within the next six weeks. This unpleasant sign of the times means that a suit costing £450 there will be cheaper by up to £100.

Michael Horsnell





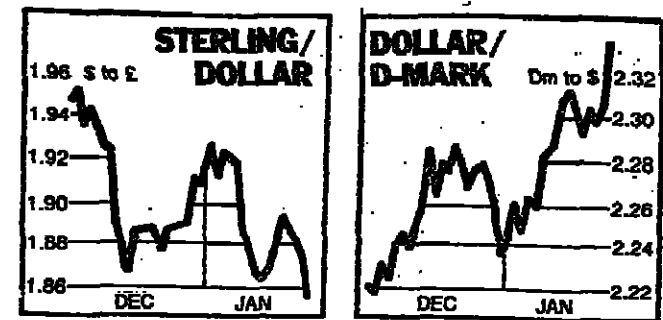






BUSINESS NEWS

US rates rise fear



Friday's warning American money supply figures sent shivers through world financial markets yesterday as they waited to see how the Federal Reserve Board would respond. Fears that United States interest rates are set for a fresh surge boosted the dollar, with central bank intervention making little headway. Eurodollar deposit rates and the key Federal Funds rate rose sharply, though they eased a little towards the end of European trading when the Federal added reserves to the United States banking system. In London, the American news put paid to any further decline in interest rates, which formed a shade. Good trade figures had little impact on the pound which lost nearly 7 cents, falling to \$1.8545. The FT index dropped 9.5 to 557.7.

Grade 'asked £5 a share'

Lord Grade, former chairman of Associated Communications Corporation, originally asked £5 a share to sell his voting stake to Mr Robert Holmes à Court, the Australian financier, the High Court was told yesterday. The asking price was 36 per cent above the 320p share which the Australian is now offering in his £36m bid. The hearing continues today in the attempt by Heron International, the rival bidders, to block the Australian bid.

De Lorean board meets

Mr John De Lorean, head of the troubled Belfast-based car maker, has called a board meeting in New York today to consider proposals put to him last week by Mr James Prior, Secretary for Northern Ireland. Two Northern Ireland Development Agency members with seats on the board will be at the meeting, which is expected to produce a salvage deal that may include redundancies and a cut in production.

Consumers spend savings

Consumer spending rose by 1 per cent between the third and fourth quarters of 1981, preliminary official figures show, suggesting that people ran down savings to offset the squeeze on incomes. Spending in 1981 as a whole was 4 per cent up on 1980, compared with a Budget forecast of a 1 per cent fall.

Cut by NatWest

National Westminster is encouraging use of the Government's loan guarantee scheme by cutting the interest rate it charges from 2 1/4 to 1 1/4 per cent above base rate. This makes NatWest the cheapest of the clearing banks on this scheme.

Textile ruling

Mrs Pamela Mason, ex-wife of actor James Mason, is to be replaced as administrator of the £1.3m estate of her father, textile tycoon Isidore Oster, a high Court judge ruled yesterday. She had acted 'irresponsibly and surreptitiously' in 8p, carrying out her duties as administrator, and running the estate's main asset, the Bradford-based woollen textile company, Illingworth Morris, the judge said.

- Dreams of building an industrial empire in the Amazon jungle have come to an abrupt end. Page 15
- Which way for the stock markets? Page 14

MARKET SUMMARY

An end to the euphoria

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 557.7 down 9.5  
FT 100s 63.52 down 0.63  
FT all-share 319.95 down 3.44  
Bargains 21.749

Fears that the jump in United States money supply would mean higher interest rates ended last week's euphoria over lower rates at home and the market started the new three-week account with losses across the board.

The FT Index closed down 9.5 at 557.7, its lowest point of the day. Gilt suffered the greatest falls, with losses of 2 1/4 at one stage although they recovered later on news of the December trade surplus to end the day with falls of £1-£1 1/4.

Leading equities followed with falls of between 8p and 10p, including Unilever at 640p, ICI 328p, Lucas 228p and Hawker at 320p.

Banks were also down, in a tight market, and among the falls were Barclays 13p 10 to 450p, Grindlays down 2p at 180p and NatWest slipping 15p to close at 400p.

But after the traumatic Smith St Aubyn experience there was some welcome relief in results from discount house Mercantile House, which responded to more than doubled profits with a 5p improvement to 480p. Alexander Discount rose 13p to 252p after its results, with Union up 15p to 423p in advance of Wednesday's figures.

Pittington slid 15p to 278p after adverse press comment on the state of European glass production. Elsewhere reorganization plans due to be announced today by Mr Geoffrey Kent, chairman, gave a 2p boost to Imperial Group to 77p, while press mention produced a 15p rise to 61p for Pittard.

Fears that the United States Congress may block the £600m British Aerospace 'Hawk' contract clipped 3p from BAS at 203p.

Results today supported Allied Textiles, up 3p at 185p on better than expected figures, but disappointing news unsettled D. S. Smith, down 3p at 95p, and Meggit, 1 1/2p weaker at 15 1/2p.

Oils remained dull and generally steady as the sector remains under a cloud, according to one dealer, but there was steady trading with the shares leading 2 1/2p to 196p on news of better than expected profits but came back on profit taking to 189p.

RTZ has at least won its lengthy battle for the control of Toots Wit Ward after brokers Hoare Govett picked up a further 700,000 Ward shares and together with acceptances took RTZ's stake over 50 per cent the day before the offer was due to lapse.

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But RTZ stayed at its market close 2p lower at 427p on news that it had won the struggle while Ward remained unchanged at 230p.

News that the RTZ offer had gone unconditional was welcomed by Mr Derek Birkdell, chairman of the Ward subsidiary Tunnel Holdings, who said that no discussions over price had yet taken place between the two groups. Tunnel shares were unchanged at 535p.

Elsewhere on the takeover front, Rowntree fell 10p to 154p on the offer for Huntley and Palmer which rose 3p to 111p, well above the terms and in anticipation of a rival offer from Allied Lyons, 3p down 70p.

Speculative interest gave a 3p boost to Rank's Movie McDougall but Associated Deities lost 6p to 140p in front of half-year figures due on Wednesday.

Equity turnover on January 22 was £235,048m (21,928 bargains).

Gareth David

COMMODITIES

● Cocoa trading was cautious while members of the International Cocoa Organisation executive committee met in London to decide whether to take up the offer of a loan from Brazilian banks.

The near March position maintained its premium over May, at £1,180.50 a tonne, £22 more than May. Traders said they did not expect further buffer stock intervention before this week's talks are concluded.

The executive committee must decide whether to recommend to the full ICCO meeting tomorrow that it should borrow \$75m (£40.4m) or £120m or find another way of financing the buffer stock manager's market intervention. One condition for the loan, to which European banks may contribute, is that the export levy be raised.

● For the second trading day in succession, standard cash in set a record trading high on the London Metal Exchange, reaching £8,710 per tonne during the morning session. At the afternoon close, standard cash was trading at £8,670 per tonne. The market remained in the grip of an extremely tight technical situation.

CURRENCIES

● The dollar rose sharply on expectation of higher US interest rates. Sterling hit a 'low' of £1.8500 before rallying.

LONDON CLOSE Sterling - 185 points

Index 90.7 down 0.2 DM 4.3350

Fr.F 11.0150 Yen 425

Dollar Index 110.5 up 1.2 DM 2.3357 up 290 points

Gold \$372.00 down \$2.75

MONEY MARKETS

● Period rates firmed slightly in response to US trends. The Bank of England's Band 1 intervention rate remained at 13 per cent.

Domestic rates: Base rates 14

3-month interbank 14-14 1/2

Euro-currency rates: 3-month dollar 15 1/4-15 1/2

3-month DM 10 1/4-10 1/2

3-month Fr.F. 15%-15 1/2

Trade figures show £331m surplus as government adviser is optimistic for 1982

North Sea oil sales push Britain into the black

By Melvyn Westlake

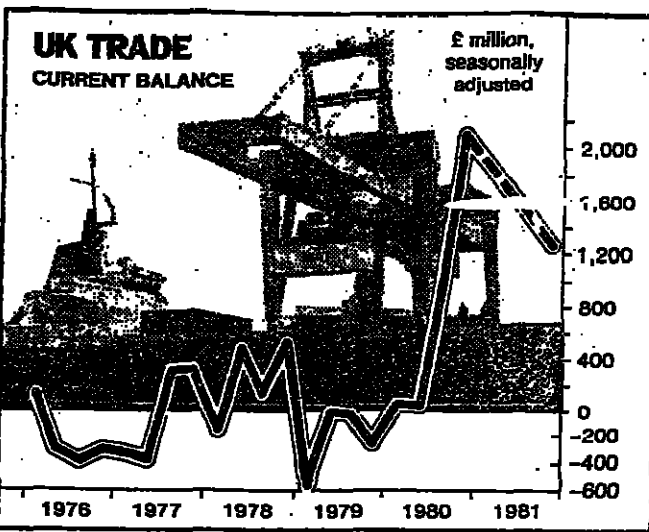
Britain's visible trade with the rest of the world showed a big surplus in December. It exceeded £331m more in value than it imported. But the surplus is more than accounted for by the sale of North Sea oil. Exports and imports of other goods were down from the peak November levels.

Exactly what has been happening to Britain's trade remains obscured by the civil servants' dispute which prevented figures being collected for six months. The best estimate for 1981 is that there was probably a surplus of £6,000m on the current account, which includes invisible transactions — trade in services, remittances of profits from abroad and government payments.

This would be twice the size of the surplus in 1980, and the sixth surplus in 12 years. In December alone, the current account was £498m in the black.

In a statement yesterday, Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, said the 1981 surplus was probably the biggest achieved by any major industrial nation.

However, this is largely the result of the economic recession in the rest of the world. Imports slumped as British companies attempted to clear



their shelves and warehouses of their existing stocks. There are clear signs of imports picking up again strongly in the last quarter of 1981. They were up more than 20 per cent by volume compared with the same quarter a year earlier (excluding erratic items like ships, precious stones and North Sea installations).

In his statement, Mr Biffen referred to the growth in imports of basic materials and capital goods, which he saw as a good augury of Britain's continuing recovery

as it was a sign that industry is stocking up again. But there has also been a big increase in major car imports between the first and fourth quarters of last year. Imports of other consumer goods also showed a sizeable volume increase. Even with a mere 1 per cent growth in the economy forecast for this year, the Treasury expects the surplus to be halved.

Many economists are concerned that if economic activity rises rather more quickly, Britain's surplus

would rapidly be converted into a deficit.

Mr Biffen also placed a special emphasis yesterday on the relatively good success of exports despite fears that exporters would be crippled by the high exchange rate of the pound until recently. This made Britain's overseas goods very uncompetitive on foreign markets.

In the fourth quarter, the volume of exports was higher than the quarterly average in 1980 and 1979, even excluding oil and erratic items. On this basis, exports in the last three months of last year were some 6 per cent up on the same period of 1980. However, the export growth over that period was a good deal less than for imports.

The recent decline in the value of the pound against other currencies will have come just in time to help exporters struggling to maintain their share of the market.

Even by the early summer of 1981 Britain had begun to recover a little of the competitiveness lost between 1976 and the beginning of 1981.

During this period competitiveness deteriorated by about 50 per cent. Some estimates now put the net loss of competitiveness at a little over 30 per cent.

Burns predicts growth over 1pc

By Frances Williams



Terry Burns: optimistic but cautious

Economic growth this year could well exceed the 1 per cent forecast by the Treasury in December, Mr Terry Burns, the government's chief economic adviser, said in a cautiously optimistic speech on economic policy and prospects yesterday.

Stressing the vagaries of the main measure of the money supply, sterling M3, he paved the way for a shift of emphasis in the Government's medium term monetary strategy to give more prominence to the exchange rate.

The Chancellor is due to present a updated version of the medium-term plan, which sets targets for monetary growth and public borrowing some years ahead, when he delivers his Budget on March 9.

Mr Burns gave no sign that Treasury Ministers were preparing to soften significantly their tough stance on monetary growth and public spending, despite demands by their "wet" critics which will be aired when the Cabinet discusses Budget strategy on Thursday.

Mr Burns, who was addressing a conference on "Pay this winter" organized by the Industrial Society in London, said that a slow recovery was now under way.

"Our December forecast looked to a growth of 1 per

cent in gdp in 1982 and there may be a greater chance of this being exceeded than the economy falling short of it", he said.

He did not say, however, whether new Treasury forecasts, to be published with the Budget, show a higher growth rate.

He admitted that in the past two years sterling M3 alone had not proved a good indicator of monetary conditions which had been in fact restrictive. Significantly he reminded his audience that last year's Budget speech had made it clear that other monetary measures and the exchange rate would be taken into account when setting short term interest rates.

Glimmer of hope for smelter

By Derek Harris Commercial Editor

An evaluation of the prospects for reopening the Invergordon aluminium smelter closed by British Aluminium is expected to be made shortly by Alumax of California.

This follows an intervention by Mr Ian McGregor, British Steel Corporation chairman, who was chief executive of Amax, the United States metals conglomerate which owns half of Alumax.

Mr McGregor said yesterday: "I did not encourage my colleagues at Alumax or myself to attempt anything at least they should give the people in Invergordon the chance to say their story."

Alumax, which is also half Japanese-owned, has been aggressively expansionist in recent years. Invergordon, where the workforce of 890 was made redundant yesterday, is staging a sit-in, would give Alumax substantial extra capacity.

There are two crucial problems facing Alumax just as much as other international companies — believed to be about six, which have been listed by the Highlands and Islands Development Board as likely to be interested in the smelter. The board is still trying to put together a rescue package in which a holding company would keep Invergordon ready for a new buyer.

The main problem is the cost of electricity, the biggest single cost in any smelting operation. British Aluminium had been paying up to 1.7p per unit while the two other British smelters were paying rather less than 1.5p.

The board believes that if the electricity cost was cut to that for the other smelters, Invergordon has a chance of economic operation. A prospective purchaser is likely to want even lower costs, probably under 1p per unit, meaning changes in legislation with Invergordon regarded as a special case.

British aluminium's estimated asking price for Invergordon of around £20m would also probably be regarded as too high.



Dipping in the biscuit barrel: Mr Kenneth Dixon, chairman of Rowntree Macintosh with (left) Mr Gordon Palmer, Huntley chairman, and (right) Sir Keith Shorrocks, head of Allied-Lyons which owns 4 per cent of Huntley and may put in a rival bid.

Sweet suitor for Huntley

By Margaret Pagano

Chocolate maker Rowntree Macintosh yesterday launched a £75m bid for biscuit manufacturer Huntley & Palmer. If Rowntree succeeds in its venture it would be a commercial union of two of Britain's oldest and most traditional companies. Both were founded by men who have had a lasting impact on British life.

The brothers Samuel, George and William Palmer, with Mr Thomas Huntley, in 1841, started a biscuit company that brought romance, money, and world-wide notoriety to the town of Reading. The Palmer family have been beneficiaries to the town through funds to the area, the local university, the Royal Berkshire Hospital and so on.

In turn Mr Joseph Macintosh, founder of the great cocoa business at York in the mid-1800s, built on the old quaker firm of Tuke & Co, and beat the statesman of his time to introduce factory medicine, insurance, profit-sharing and works councils in his enterprise.

Mr Gordon Palmer, the present chairman of Huntley & Palmer, now probably the victim of stock market auction, still continues the

the market reflecting that the Rowntree bid looks cheap — as perhaps it appears on Huntley's forecast recovery and assets — the City will be expecting other contenders to step in.

The tussle is over market share in a mature British market for confectionery, biscuits and snacks which may have reached saturation. Cadbury, Mars and Rowntree dominate that market with nearly 80 per cent and survival outside the present growing, but slow, markets appears to depend on strength inside the United Kingdom or by acquisition abroad. All these companies could be interested in Huntley and Allied-Lyons, has already got a 4 per cent stake in Hartleys. Allied once the favourite to launch a bid, is still expected to join the fight.

At Huntley the strong man behind the board appears to be Dr Keith Bright brought in a few years ago by Mr Palmer, who is 63. It has been his responsibility to direct the recent rationalizations and the overseas acquisitions with companies in France and Germany and to take a more aggressive stand on marketing.

But a battle for a share in this old-established family business looks almost certain to break out with rival suitors now in the wings. Now Rowntree has finally put its cards on the table. With

the two companies produce a number of well-known brands. These include: HUNTLEY & PALMER Biscuits: Jacobs, Pepp Frasn, Chiltonian and Trio. Snack Foods: Big D Special dry roast peanuts, Smith's Crisps and Bendicks sweets. Rowntree Macintosh Confectionery: Quality Street, Kit Kat, Smarties, Yorkie, After Eight, Aero, Mint Imperials, Rowntree Fruit Gums, Fox's Glacier Minis, Black Magic, Blue Riband, Sun Pat Nuts and Peanut Butter.

Project in jeopardy despite French deal

Gloom persists over Siberian gas pipeline

France's decision to sign a 25-year contract to buy gas from the Soviet Union has done little to lift the gloom surrounding the Siberian pipeline project in Western Europe.

What was once celebrated as the greatest East-West trade deal is clouded by the United States refusal to Western European manufacturers at the small volume of orders from the Russians and a deterioration in Moscow's standing among European bankers.

Completion of the deal, by which the Soviet Union should supply Western Europe with 40,000 million cubic metres of natural gas a year for a quarter of a century from Western Siberia and which was supposed to show-er industrial orders worth at least \$10,000m (£5,400m) on the West. Is almost certain to be delayed. The target of 1984 for the first gas deliveries looks increasingly implausible, while pessimists believe the entire project could collapse.

Failure to complete the project would deal a severe blow to the Soviet Union, which experts to achieve an annual hard currency income of at least \$10,000m from gas

sales. The damage to Western industry and jobs would be more immediate, but relatively slight because the Russians have failed to live up to expectations in placing orders associated with the project.

West Germany, which invested a great deal of political prestige in the project, is feeling badly let down by the Soviet Union's purchasing policy.

The deal was originally expected to produce orders for pipes and plant worth some DM20,000m (£4,650m)

Union has decided not to order the pipes for the project in advance but to negotiate annually with Western suppliers.

This tactic, designed to force Western plant makers to cut prices under the threat of losing orders to their competitors, could backfire on the Russians if Western sanctions are toughened beyond their present level.

When first mooted, the plan was for natural gas to be piped from the Yamal peninsula in the far north of Siberia over a double pipeline to Western Europe. Now exploitation of the Yamal reserves has been put off beyond the scope of the present five-year plan and a single 3,400-mile pipeline will bring the gas from the more southerly Gruzgoy field.

Despite reducing the project, the Soviet Union is having difficulty in financing it. Its request for an additional DM300m credit from its West German bankers has run into difficulties with the banks refusing to give Moscow the cash because Poland has still to pay nearly \$300m of interest owing from 1981 and because the order inflow from the deal has been so meagre.

City backing for Telecom research

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

British Telecom in partnership with four City institutions has formed a subsidiary called Martlesham Enterprises to develop and exploit the by-products of research made at the corporation's laboratories at Martlesham Heath, near Ipswich.

The new company has been established with issued ordinary share capital of £250,000. The shareholders are British Telecom (30 per cent), Electra Investment Trust (25 per cent), Lazard Brothers (20 per cent), Rieburn Investment Trust (20 per cent) and Thompson Clive and Partners (5 per cent).

The new venture will be chaired by Mr Mark Burrell a director of Lazard Brothers. employed at Martlesham

Yesterday he said: "Martlesham Enterprises brings together the public and the private sector, the City and advanced technology in a new partnership. "In the next two or three years we hope to be responsible for the successful sponsorship of several new companies."

It is intended that Martlesham Enterprises would assess the commercial potential of a particular discovery and be responsible for drawing up a business plan for the new company including fund-raising and product marketing.

British Telecom in turn could either take a stake in the new venture or be paid a royalty on sales. About 1,800 people are employed at Martlesham



Co-op Bank announces a change in base rate

From 14.50% to 14.00% p.a. With effect from Tuesday, 26th January 1982

Deposit Rates will become: 7 day deposits 11.50% p.a. 1 month deposits 11.75% p.a.

Short-term deposits from 12.50% to 14.10% p.a. depending on amount & term (minimum £500 & 6 months)



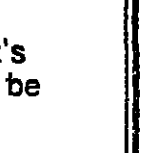
Your caring sharing bank

Hill Samuel Base Rate

With effect from the close of business on January 26th, 1982, Hill Samuel's Base Rate for lending will be reduced from 14 1/2 per cent to 14 per cent per annum.

Interest payable on the Bank's Demand Deposit Accounts will be at the rate of 12 per cent per annum.

Hill Samuel & Co. Limited 100 Wood Street, London EC2P 2AJ. Telephone: 01-628 8011.





## BUSINESS NEWS/COMPANIES AND MARKET REPORTS

JAMES CAPEL

## Brokers eye a bullish equity trend

Sentiment in the London stock market is decidedly bullish. It is possible, as James Capel points out in his new *Equity Market* comment, to see the FT 30-share index up by at least 40 per cent over the next 18 months.

There is plenty of logic to back this kind of forecast, which is why the danger of sky-high yields in the New York money and bond markets has not sent fund managers running for their United States "bunny" lists.

Since the United Kingdom plunged into recession before the other major industrial countries there is a good chance that it will emerge first. The flow of funds out of the United Kingdom has slowed down, and more overseas fund managers are seeking to put cash into United Kingdom equities as well as the money markets.

Most of the important London stock brokers are forecasting a good improvement in company profits for 1982. In United Kingdom wages are coming in at 7-8 per cent level on average in the current round, productivity is improving, and destocking should soon ease off — all good reasons for better company profit performance.

Sterling is still too high to give a good boost to the competitiveness of United Kingdom exports. But at present levels it is less of a hindrance than it was in 1979.

Amidst the current and coming events, the March 8 Budget looks likely to give something of a boost to the corporate sector. The icy

and damp weather may have an adverse effect and soaring domestic fuel bills could squeeze the consumer goods purchase out of the family budget.

James Capel's way of looking at the figures is to start with the projection of corporate profits rising by at least 20 per cent over each of the next two years. Dividends, it points out, will rise in line with this because of the present low level of earnings cover. Capel suggests that dividends could only go up by perhaps 10 per cent each year.

Moving on to the yields on gilts and equities in recent years, it sets up two scenarios. Under the first, which is more pessimistic about refloating and the level of interest rates it sees a 15 per cent yield on gilts. If the gap between that and the yield on equities is 7 per cent (it has averaged 7 over the last 10 years), then it deduces a rise of 15 per cent in the level of the market.

But, and this seems to be the view it prefers, the lower level of inflation now being experienced should indicate a narrower gap

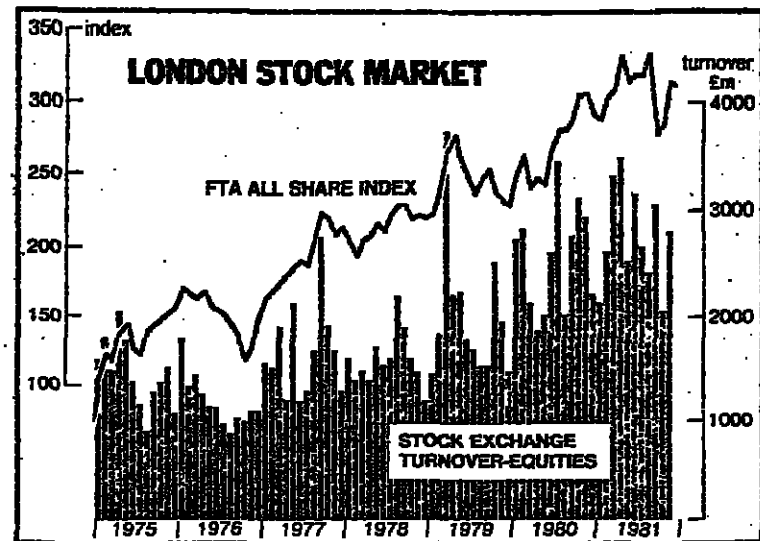
between gilt and equity yields. Looking at the figures conservatively, Capel argues: "Gilt yields of 12 per cent, and a yield gap of 8 per cent imply a 4 per cent equity yield although equity yields have not been lower than 5 per cent since 1972/73. Even a 5 per cent basis would allow the market to rise by around 40 per cent from today's level taking the 30-share index above 700."

Without spelling out a forecast for the market as specifically as James Capel, the team who moved across from Phillips & Drew to Simon & Coates is also optimistic. In its view company profits could go up by 14 per cent in 1982, the largest recovery coming from engineering, building materials and clearing banks (very similar to James Capel's buying list).

It points out: "The equity market, contrary to general belief has shown increased stability since the mid-1970s. We expect 1982 to bring a steady improvement in the market, with a continuation of the trend towards reduced volatility."

Phillips & Drew is bullish, but again less specifically (in cold print at least) than the others. It also looks at sectors and picks out some of the leaders in textiles, paper, industrial materials, chemicals and engineering — in other words depressed manufacturing companies.

Sally White



## DISCOUNT HOUSE

## Alexanders advance lifts shares

Alexanders Discount, the City discount house, reports higher profits for 1981 and a restoration of the general reserve to the £5m level ruling at the end of 1978. The shares rose from 239p to 252p on the news.

Disclosed profits after tax and transfer to hidden reserves are up from £1.25m to £1.75m but the true level of profit is thought to have been at least £2.25m because Alexanders has transferred £500,000 from hidden reserves to the disclosed general reserve.

Alexander said it had been a difficult year because of volatile interest rates, especially in the last six months, so it was pleased to report profits which allowed an increase in the dividend and also an expansion in the trading base of the company and also an expansion in the trading base of the company and thus the size of the portfolio which can be carried.

The final dividend is being raised by 13 per cent to 18.57p gross to give a total of 26.43p compared with 24.3p in 1980.

Mr Douglas Grant, managing director, said the company had capitalized on the uncertainty when the Bank of England's new monetary system was introduced. "We took a cautious view and anticipated difficult conditions particularly in the second half of the year," he said.

He said that by taking a defensive stance, Alexanders had secured its finance costs for much of the second half of the year, and at the end of the year was operating on running margins of about 2 per cent.

In the gilts market, the area in which fellow discount house Smith & Aubyn recently reported £20m of losses, Alexanders also took a cautious view throughout the year and ended it with net holdings of only £4m of gilts compared with £400,000 net a year before.

This compared with total balance sheet footings of

£464m at the end of 1981, a 7 per cent increase over the year. The balance sheet also comprised £41m of Treasury Bills, £271m of other bills and £78m of sterling CDs. Holdings of variable-rate local authority securities were virtually unchanged at £49.5m.

After having had to draw on reserves to pay the dividend in 1979 because of losses that year, general reserves have now been restored by the £500,000 transfer from inner reserves.

## ALLIED TEXTILE

## Record year

Allied Textile Companies continues to shrug aside the textile recession, but still sees no sign of an upturn. In the year to September 30, turnover rose by one per cent to £29.9m and pretax

profits, excluding a small exceptional income, went ahead by more than 5 per cent to a new peak of £3.08m.

The group, headed by Mr Joseph Lumb, has not hesitated to cut back in areas where demand has dried up, and it has been equally successful in moving into new markets like car fabrics and soft furnishings. In doing this the group has also built a cash mountain which now stands at £3m, or around 120p a share. So the £575,700 cost of the dividend of 9.96p gross is covered by the £700,000 of interest income alone. The latest pretax profits were also

flattered by the decision to take £662,000, against £481,000, of mill closure and reorganization costs below the line, instead of directly against pretax profits.

Allied has benefited from a cut in costs after shrinking its labour force from 4,000 to 1,000 in seven years. Germ-

## LATEST RESULTS

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	date	total
Allied Textile (F)	29,929.6	3,113.07	49,321.7	4.63	2/4	6.9(6.5)
Alex. Discount (F)	—	1.78(1.26)	—	5.5(5.5)	7/7	13(11.5)
E. Elliott (F)	2,862.73	0.023(0.20)	—	—	—	—
Leopold (F)	3,847.2	0.51(0.04)	11,492.9	—	—	—
Merc. House (F)	31,715.8	6.12(8.5)	18,211	15/3	—	—
Palmerston Inv. (F)	—	0.15(0.12)	—	10.5(9)	4/3	—
Bank Corp. (F)	81,937	102(100)	25,828.6	6(8)	12/4	10.8(10.5)
S. S. Smith (F)	3,784.24	0.60(0.68)	5,877.7	2.5(2.5)	28/2	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on profits per share. Earnings in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.425. Profits are shown pretax and earnings are net. a-Loss, b-Net profit.

## MERCANTILE HOUSE

## Making the most of a global spread

Shareholders in Mercantile House should be experiencing a warm glow. First-half pretax profits have doubled to £6.1m. Just a short of the last annual result, itself a twofold rise. The six-monthly dividend is up 40 per cent to 5p gross, while the share price, which stood at 345p when the company made its July two-for-five rights issue, is now 445p.

Any company so strategically positioned outside the main channels carrying ever-increasing international capital flows could hardly go wrong. But Mercantile has taken full advantage of its situation.

The geographical spread of offices to Toronto, Sydney, San Francisco and Tokyo enables Mercantile to cover all time zones. Tokyo will open up business in Far East currencies, notably the yen further broadening the scope. New York, largely a domestic market, has grown almost to match London.

Big banks want to deal with big brokers, so the new discounts on large volume transactions should encourage higher turnover. In the first half, turnover also doubled to £31.7m. The recent revival of the European market has helped as well.

Mercantile has shown a shrewd sense of how to make acquisitions

at multiples below that of the parent. Only two months of Cosmox, the Swiss money broker, and Rouse Woodstock, the American commodity broker, are in these figures to the end of October. Mercantile is taking Rouse into financial futures to offset dull commodity markets.

The likelihood, therefore, is that full year profits will double again. This must be encouraging for the sector, since R.P. Martin will be reporting interim in about a month and Exco its annual figures at the beginning of March.

On this basis Exco, still best known as Astley & Pearce despite its triumphant market debut in October, will make £12m for 1981. That should intensify the competition with Mercantile, particularly in the communications field. R.P. Martin made £705,000 in the first half of its last financial year and £2.17m — an increase of 220 per cent — for the whole year.

But these prospects did not stop money brokers' shares from easing yesterday, partly because the market was down and partly because of profit-taking after last week's vigorous run up.

Mercantile closed at 455p, having reached 460p at one point, and Exco and R.P. Martin were 198p and 330p respectively.

Michael Prest

## INTERNATIONAL



**WEST GERMANY**  
Mannesmann AG said its Mannesmann Handel AG unit and Thyssen AG's Thyssen Stahlunion GMBH subsidiary have jointly won a 1.2 million order for over 1.2 million tonnes of 56-inch steel pipe.

**JAPAN**  
The Japanese Government has given firm assurances that it will increase imports from the United States and the 40 countries of the European Community.

● Toyota Motor Co., Japan's largest car manufacturer, and Toyota Motor Sales Co., its marketing arm, will merge on July 1 in order to win an advantage in the intensifying competition in the small car world market.

**BELGIUM**  
The Belgium wholesale price index for December rose 0.6 per cent from November, picking up from the November increase of 0.3 per cent. November steel production in the European Community, excluding Greece, fell 9.7 per cent in December, but was up 13.6 per cent in the year, according to figures released in Brussels.

**FRANCE**  
Total deposits in French savings banks rose by 14 per cent last year to stand at £432,000m (£39,000m) on January 1, up from £379,000m a year before and £334,000m in 1980.  
● Negotiations in Paris between officials of the French Gas utility Gdf Suez and the Algerian oil and gas corporation Sonatrach will continue "at least" until today, a spokesman said yesterday. The talks began on Saturday.

**UNITED STATES**  
The group of six US companies that handles imports of Mexican natural gas is negotiating to double shipments to 600 million cubic feet a day.  
● The Dallas-based LTV company has withdrawn from the bargaining for Chrysler's tank-building subsidiary, leaving Teledyne and General Dynamics as likely bidders.  
● The United Rubber Workers Union will seek "meaningful" wage rises when contract talks with the big four tyre companies begin in March. It was announced by union officials in St Louis.

**UGANDA**  
Representatives of Ugandan, British, Belgian, French, Austrian and American companies, have agreed on a tentative £55m plan to rebuild and redevelop Uganda's largest sugar estate at Kakira, 60 miles east of Kampala.

**SWEDEN**  
The Swedish consumer price index, base 1980, fell 0.4 per cent to 114.9 in December against a 0.3 per cent rise to 115.4 in November and a 0.4 per cent advance to 105.2 a year ago.

**SOUTH AFRICA**  
South Africa's consumer price index rose by 13.9 per cent in the year to December 1981, down from 15.8 per cent in 1980. The index reached 216.3 last December, up from 214.8 in November and 189.9 in December 1980.

## Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	14%
Barclays	14 1/2%
BCCI	14 1/2%
Consolidated Crds.	14 1/2%
C. Hoare & Co	14%
Lloyds Bank	14%
Midland Bank	14%
Nat Westminster	14%
TSB	14%
Williams & Glyn's	14%

\* 7.00p deposit on sum of £100,000 12 m. over £500,000 24 m.

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The complexities of international trade call for a bank with comprehensive knowledge of the money markets and the facilities to handle your remittances quickly and conveniently to make your money work for you at every possible moment.

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Our range of services both overseas and at over twenty British branches is exactly what you expect from any dynamic, progressive bank: the efficiency provided with the service makes us distinctively what we are.



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The British bank that goes further faster.

## COMMODITIES

**COPPER** was steady. Afternoon: Higher grade cash, 34.50-35.00; three months, 34.50-35.00; six months, 34.50-35.00; one year, 34.50-35.00. Settlement, 34.50. **LEAD** was steady. Afternoon: Higher grade cash, 10.50-11.00; three months, 10.50-11.00; six months, 10.50-11.00; one year, 10.50-11.00. Settlement, 10.50. **TIN** was barely steady. Afternoon: Standard cash, 28.00-28.50; three months, 28.00-28.50; six months, 28.00-28.50; one year, 28.00-28.50. Settlement, 28.00. **SILVER** was steady. Afternoon: Higher grade cash, 11.50-12.00; three months, 11.50-12.00; six months, 11.50-12.00; one year, 11.50-12.00. Settlement, 11.50.

**ALUMINIUM** was steady. Afternoon: Higher grade cash, 1.50-1.55; three months, 1.50-1.55; six months, 1.50-1.55; one year, 1.50-1.55. Settlement, 1.50. **IRON** was steady. Afternoon: Higher grade cash, 1.50-1.55; three months, 1.50-1.55; six months, 1.50-1.55; one year, 1.50-1.55. Settlement, 1.50. **STEEL** was steady. Afternoon: Higher grade cash, 1.50-1.55; three months, 1.50-1.55; six months, 1.50-1.55; one year, 1.50-1.55. Settlement, 1.50.

**COFFEE** was steady. Afternoon: Higher grade cash, 1.50-1.55; three months, 1.50-1.55; six months, 1.50-1.55; one year, 1.50-1.55. Settlement, 1.50. **TEA** was steady. Afternoon: Higher grade cash, 1.50-1.55; three months, 1.50-1.55; six months, 1.50-1.55; one year, 1.50-1.55. Settlement, 1.50. **SUGAR** was steady. Afternoon: Higher grade cash, 1.50-1.55; three months, 1.50-1.55; six months, 1.50-1.55; one year, 1.50-1.55. Settlement, 1.50.

**WHEAT** was steady. Afternoon: Higher grade cash, 1.50-1.55; three months, 1.50-1.55; six months, 1.50-1.55; one year, 1.50-1.55. Settlement, 1.50. **BARLEY** was steady. Afternoon: Higher grade cash, 1.50-1.55; three months, 1.50-1.55; six months, 1.50-1.55; one year, 1.50-1.55. Settlement, 1.50. **RYE** was steady. Afternoon: Higher grade cash, 1.50-1.55; three months, 1.50-1.55; six months, 1.50-1.55; one year, 1.50-1.55. Settlement, 1.50.

## M. J. H. Nightingale &amp; Co. Limited

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## The Over-the-Counter Market

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Open	Close	Settle	Vol
121	100	ABF Hldgs 10% CULS	121	-	10.0	8.3	—	—
75	62	Altrung Group	69	-	4.7	6.8	12.0	15.2
51	33	Armitage & Rhodes	45	-	4.3	9.6	12.0	8.5
203	187	Bardon Hill	203	+	9.7	4.8	9.9	12.0
104	82	Deborah Services	82	-	6.0	7.3	4.1	7.7
129	99	Frank Horsell	129	-	6.4	5.0	11.6	23.9
76	39	Frederick Packer	76	+	1.7	2.2	3.0	—
76	40	George Blair	76	+	1.7	2.2	3.0	—
102	93	IPC	94	-	7.3	7.8	6.8	10.2
105	100	Isis Cow Group	105	-	15.7	15.0	—	—
113	95	Jackson Group	95	-	7.0	7.4	3.0	6.7
130	108	James Burroughs	113	-	8.7	7.7	8.2	10.4
394	250	Robert Jenkins	253	-	31.3	12.4	8.5	8.9
59	51	Scrutons "A"	55	-	5.3	9.6	8.5	7.9
222	167	Torday & Carlisle	167	-	10.7	6.4	5.4	9.9
15	10	Twinklark Ltd	15	-	—	—	—	—
80	65	Twinklark Ltd	75	-	15.0	20.0	—	—
44	27	Outlook Holdings	27	-	5.0	11.1	4.8	8.2
103	75	Walter Alexander	75	-	6.4	8.5	8.9	8.7
263	212	W. S. Yarnall	216	-	13.1	6.1	4.1	8.3

Prices now available on Prestel page 4914



BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

PEOPLE

Tannoy is back in Britain

They have not exactly broadcast the news, but the six British directors of Tannoy have bought out the company from its American owners, Beatrice Foods.

Directors Norman Crocker (managing), David Bisset-Powell, Ian Dunn, Peter Russell, Peter Wilcox and "Stanley" Livingston, keep their jobs. So, too, do the 140 staff in south-east London and Coatbridge, Strathclyde.

Crocker and the Tannoy team, I'm told, secured this lively firm at a knockdown price with the help of commercial law expert David Haggart and Beatrice's wish to de-conglomerate. Barclays Bank came up with about £1m, covering both purchase and immediate funding.

Tannoy long ago diversified from the public address systems that made the company a household word to millions of service people in the war. The company exports more than three-quarters of what it makes, ranging from hi-fi and studio speakers (sold in Japan under the Tannoy name) to wired gun control systems sold in the Middle East.



D'you suppose some Cornish mitter will try to burn it down?

Sweet day, so cool

Daniel Boulud is finding life sweet in his latest job, that of chef to the EEC ambassador to Washington, Vicomte Roland de Kergorlay.

The ambassador recruited Boulud in Brussels to soften up the mighty of Washington with nouvelle cuisine at the residence in Belmont Road.

But of late Belmont Road has been clogged with the limousines of Washington's hostesses, dispatched to bring back 10lb boxes of chocolate truffles at \$120 a time. Chauffeurs asking for smaller quantities were directed to two stores supplied by Boulud.

The chef, having sniffed America's entrepreneurial air, had gone into business for himself. But since jokes have begun to circulate around Washington about the "European Chocolate Community", Boulud has been asked not to rustle his sweet wrappers so loud.

Design and marketing were on the agenda at Number Ten Downing Street last night, not of a prime ministerial meeting with the Conservative Party's new Director of Marketing, Christopher Lawson, but of a seminar Mrs Thatcher held for senior executives on "product design and market success". She urged business people to remedy what she sees as British industry's neglect of good design.

Appeals on Wheels

Mrs Audrey Barter (below) paid an unexpected and unusual return visit to the City yesterday.

Accompanied by the pipe and drum band of the Scots Guards she called at the Stock Exchange and was allowed onto the trading floor in her wheelchair to collect money for Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

Mrs Barter met many old friends for she was the manager of Slaters', a restaurant now sadly closed but once very popular with the market.



NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr John S Fraser has been appointed corporate managing director, Ciba-Geigy Plastics and Additives, in succession to Dr K W Humphreys. Mr Fraser will also retain his existing responsibilities as head of the Ilford Photographic Group and a member of the board of Ciba-Geigy (UK).

Mr Peter Guest has been appointed sales and marketing director of Bonar Lang. Mr A P Dignum has been appointed assistant managing director of Dixons Photographic (UK).

A new consortium is taking over the Jari project. Patrick Knight reports

How the Amazon defeated an American millionaire



Jari, its mounting problems overwhelmed the millionaire American

Sao Paulo

The Amazon jungle has claimed another illustrious victim — the millionaire Daniel K. Ludwig, aged 84, whose enormous Jari forestry and pulp project is being acquired by a consortium of 23 banks and private companies, with major government participation.

The consortium was being formally inaugurated in Brasilia yesterday. Brazilians are not sure whether to celebrate or cry.

Ludwig, said to be the richest man in the world, but now an ailing recluse in New York, battled with Jari for 14 years. He is giving up after pouring more than \$1,000m of his own money into the 4 million acre project, the largest piece of real estate in the world, and he will be paid nothing for at least five years.

That an octogenarian American millionaire should feel that the Amazon has, finally, become too much for him, is perhaps not too surprising, however, is that the man who has put together the package to take over the Jari project is himself a septuagenarian 75-year-old Brazilian, Senhor Augusto Azevedo Antunes, an old friend of Ludwig.

Can he do better? The problems which mounted up and finally overwhelmed Ludwig, were certainly formidable.

The final straw for him was ostensibly the delay by the authorities in giving definite legal title to about half the land. But as Ludwig has only planted trees on about a twelfth of the area so far, that cuts little ice. The real reason, as the Brazilians who are taking it over now realize, is that the project in its present form is not viable. Hundreds of millions more dollars will have to be risked to make it so.

When Ludwig was first invited to invest in Brazil, in the heady days of the late 1960s the "miracle" years, when the economy was growing at 10 per cent and more a year, he was given the red carpet treatment. All obstacles would be swept away, and he would be left alone, as long as he put up the cash. This was the sort of deal Ludwig liked. Used to shipping, when a shrewd one voyage charter could sometimes recoup the cost of a supertanker, he set about conquering the Amazon in the same way.

He bought the world's biggest and most sophisticated machines to clear the jungle. He scoured the globe to find the technology for a pulp factory which could be towed around the world to Jari. This would avoid the costly problem of assembling sophisticated plant deep in the Amazon, something which wary mining engineers refer to with respect as "Amazon factor", and which they say can push construction costs to three times what they are elsewhere.

As the years passed, and the land was cleared and planted, Ludwig found that many of his high technology needs were unsuitable. The big machines got bogged down, and had to be abandoned. The fast-growing gmelina trees from Nigeria and Indonesia did not do well on sandy Jari soils, and have largely been replaced by the eucalyptus and Caribbean pine everybody else plants in Brazil.

But Ludwig, who runs his

companies largely on his own did not like to be told things were not working out. Men who dared to do so were often fired. All sorts of scare stories started to emerge from Jari, coinciding with the period of political liberalization, and the



Daniel Ludwig: his dream became a nightmare.

return to Brazil of critics of the regime.

The huge enclave Ludwig was setting up, close to borders with Venezuela and the Guyanas, looked very suspicious to those who believed there was a plot for the imperialists to get hold of Amazonia. Some suggested Ludwig was collaborating with the CIA and was in partnership with reactionary forces in Brazil. The secretive Ludwig did not help himself. Jari became like a separate country, and access even for government officials was made difficult.

Journalists were barred and often made up stories. They had plenty to go on. To try to reduce massive labour turnover, in a region where cash payments were often unknown,

Ludwig tried to keep his labour force on site, and prevent men going back to the coastal town of Belem every time they received a pay packet.

To encourage them to stay, however, Ludwig built schools, hospitals, and good housing. He provided free electricity and water, and there are supermarkets which sell at reasonable prices, unknown in Amazonia. There is a railway, a port, and an airfield. In fact — and this has proved a major problem — a costly infrastructure was put in to sustain the production of three thousand tons of pulp a day, four times what is actually produced.

On top of problems of his own making, the climate of opinion about Jari itself began to change. Echoes of the nationalist campaign against Jari, stressing the exploitation of Brazil by foreigners, began to be felt. Ministers sensed that Jari could be a liability.

The old Brazilian maxim, first coined by 1930s dictator President Getulio Vargas "for my friends, everything, for my enemies, the law" began to be applied.

So the immovable object has come into collision with the irresistible force, and Ludwig has disposed of Jari. Selling is the wrong word. He will not get a cent for at least five years, if he lives that long, and then only between 3 and 5 per cent of whatever profits Jari by then brings in. Having no heirs the money will go to the Ludwig cancer research foundation, in Switzerland.

Augusto Antunes, who now takes up the burden of Jari, is a wealthy industrialist who in partnership with Bethlehem Steel, has been mining manganese in the hills close to Jari for 23 years. He is Brazil's second largest iron ore exporter, and has ranching and forestry

interests in Amazonia, so he knows the problems of the Amazon well.

Antunes's company Caemi, is putting up \$40m of the \$100m by which Jari capital is to be increased from private sources. The chairman of the new board is Sergio Quintella, president of the International Engineering Company. The other 22 companies to participate are having their arms twisted hard to come up with \$3m each. The government will provide \$180m. This \$280m total will be enough to pay off various debts to third parties, such as the Ishiwakajima Shipyard, which built the pulp plant, and Lloyd's Bank.

But the take over solves almost nothing, except to rescue Brazilian pride and save Brazilian face, as businessmen reluctant to participate are pointing out. For Jari to be viable, pulp exports would have to be doubled, preferably trebled. The necessary thousand-tons-a-day plant would cost at least \$500m. Where is that to come from?

If it is not raised, Jari is really just a magnificent new town deep in the Amazon jungle, providing very good living conditions for the 7,000 or so on site, and scrappings for the further 35,000 who have been attracted to the town outside, called "Beyond the Falls".

For all the critics' carping, if Jari were to disappear under the jungle carpet, as other projects by illustrious names such as Ford, have done, they would have a lot to answer for. Many in Brasilia acknowledge an immense debt to Daniel Ludwig in finding out, albeit the hard way, how to deal with Amazonia.

Shopping without the frills

MARKETING AND ADVERTISING: GENERICS

By Peter McGoldrick



A note of austerity has started to enter the normally flamboyant arena of grocery marketing. Shoppers in the United Kingdom and in many other countries are seeing a new and very bland type of product packaging appear on supermarket shelves.

These packs usually carry only the product description, in blunt, stencil type lettering, and the required product information, set against a white or plain background. Conspicuously missing are the enticing pictures of the product and the other customary packaging embellishments.

Within the grocery industry, such products are usually known as "generics" but they are also sometimes referred to as "brand-free" or "no-name" items. They differ from the well-established retailer own labels in that the retailer's name is not prominently displayed on the package. For consumers, they are offering ranges of basic commodities at prices considerably below normal for those products.

Although appearing dull, generics have attracted interest and attention from grocery manufacturers, retailers, their agencies and the consumer organizations. To some retailers, they have offered a way of buying market share and of departing somewhat from the treadmill of short-term special offers.

The appeal of generic grocery products depends to a large extent upon the effective communication to consumers of the "no-frills" message. If shoppers believed that the sizable price reductions were mainly a result of lower quality contents, the products would gain only limited acceptance.

Evidence has emerged suggesting that generic buyers perceive the price reduction to be explained mainly by lower advertising, labelling, and packaging costs. In the United States, *Progressive Grocer* published the following results in 1979.

Generics are cheaper because:

	Generic Buyers	Non Generic Buyers
No advertising	43%	29%
Cheaper Packaging	21%	13%
Lower quality	15%	38%

The actual (as opposed to perceived) components of the

price reductions are considerably more difficult to quantify and vary between the different ranges. One British retailer claims that its generic products are of as high, or higher quality than the well known brands. In other cases, the concept of an "acceptable quality" is applied and slightly lower

grade commodities are used. The combined savings on advertising and packaging certainly do not add up to a major proportion of the price reductions offered. Most of the generic ranges were heavily promoted, at least at the outset, and some manufacturers have complained that it actually costs them more to supply products in the "cheaper" packs than in their standard, branded packs.

The most significant and consistent saving is in the price at which the retailers can obtain generic products. At the moment, only five large grocery retailers in Britain — Allied Suppliers, Carrefour, Fine Fare, Intercontinental and Tesco — are selling generics and they wield considerable buying power. Because generics are unbranded, orders can fairly easily be switched between suppliers and, if more competitive, different suppliers can be used in different parts of the country.

For this reason, it is not entirely surprising that the development of generics has been far from welcomed by most grocery manufacturers. Although they offer an opportunity to smaller manufacturers or to major manufacturers with excess capacity, in general they are seen as another manifestation of the growing power of the large, multiple retailers.

Fine Fare launched its "Yellow Packs" in 1980. Unlike Carrefour, which started the trend in France in 1976, with its "Produits Libres" — Fine Fare already had an extensive range of about 450 products retailing under its own name. The Yellow Packs represented in effect a second retailer brand in its stores.

Two more major British multiples became involved in 1981: Allied Suppliers with its "Basics" and Tesco with its "Value Lines". Generics represent an intensification of competition

in the grocery industry, and there are many manufacturers and some distributors with a vested interest in their failure. Accordingly, there have been forecasts that generics would be "a passing fad" or that they would "only be of appeal to the poorer shoppers".

A project carried out by

The Department of Management Sciences at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology included a survey of customers at a Fine Fare hypermarket at which the full range of Yellow Packs is sold.

Less than 5 per cent of the shoppers were unaware of the Yellow Packs, and 82 per cent had purchased at least one generic item.

The survey showed that the purchasing of generics was not more common among the lower occupation groups. Awareness was highest among the "up-market" shoppers which had the effect of increasing the proportion purchasing generics. Using the Jcnars occupation grading system:

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Awareness and purchase of Yellow Packs

	Aware	Purchased
Occupation: AB	100%	86%
C1	96%	84%
C2	94%	82%
DE	83%	79%

Business Editor

As US interest rates climb...

Are the Europeans going to fall at the first hurdle, as they set off on a course to lower interest rates? The simple answer is that it is too early to tell. When European interest rates were led down last week, it was not done in total blindness of what was happening in the United States. The theory must be that at some stage this spring, American interest rates will resume a falling trend, and that the dollar, too, will start to slide.

For the moment, though, the ride is clearly going to be extremely bumpy and the riders may yet be unseated. Last week's United States money supply was again appreciably worse than expected, and yesterday's opening Fed Funds rate of more than 15 per cent was enough to send the shivers down plenty of spines. Surprisingly, though, the Bank of England made it clear to the discount houses that the fall in British short-term rates had gone far enough for the moment. It may also have been conducting "smoothing" operations in the foreign exchange market.

The real question is how much pressure the Bank can stand if the going gets really tough. While it can probably allow a period of money market rates to rise a good half per cent before it starts to feel uncomfortable at the very short end of the interest rate spectrum, it is questionable how far it would want to intervene in the foreign exchange markets in support of sterling. Drawing sterling out of the system would merely exacerbate the present shortages in the money markets.

On the basis of the latest trade figures, there should perhaps be no great anxiety about adopting the alternative policy of letting sterling find its own market rate over the short-term in expectation of a bounce back at a later stage. But is the recent trade performance too good to last?

Rowntree Crunch time

It was always only a matter of time before Rowntree-Mackintosh, with 23.5 per cent of the Huntley & Palmer equity, moved to swallow the whole group. What has presumably precipitated matters has been the fear that Allied-Lyons, with just under 5 per cent of H & P, might have been about to take the initiative. Where this leaves Allied-Lyons remains to be seen. But with Rowntree's offer valuing H & P at some £75m on the basis of a dismal recent record and pre-tax profits of no more, perhaps than £8m to £9m for 1981 — the opening stakes are already looking at recovery

prospects and ways of improving the return on H & P's capital employed of well over £100m.

Naturally, that is what Rowntree says its bid is all about — helping H & P to make full use of its potential. That may seem fair enough. Doubtless, though, any H & P defence will be quick to point out that Rowntree's main aim is to but its way into areas outside the stagnating confectionery market and broaden its geographical exposure.

Rank Org. Getting better

After the first-half setback from £53.5m to £36.7m, when the Xerox side went off the boil, and an anticipated lacklustre showing from the Organization's own activities, most leading analysts had been forecasting a sharp deterioration in Rank's pretax profits from last year's £109.4m. In the event the £102.8m pre-tax outturn was a good £10m better than even the most optimistic had been expecting, and the shares jumped almost a tenth to close at 190p.

The key to the latest trading performance has been both an improvement in the Xerox business and a sturdy contribution from the non-Xerox operations which have been such a thorn in Rank's side for most of the 1970s. Rank's share of Xerox has been boosted by £15m after use of the new American accounting standard FAS 52, which takes currency changes — in this case adverse ones — straight to the balance sheet rather than coming through the profit and loss account as under FAS 8. As it is, after Xerox's first-half setback, its full-year contribution is only marginally down at £85.1m, probably due to the better sales/rental mix in its business.

No one is going to get too excited by Rank's other trading activities but at least the worse performances from leisure, hotels and holidays, and the industrial division have been compensated by stronger contributions by television and property to leave trading profits looking pegging.

The question now, of course, is whether the leopard really has changed its spots. But with new products coming through in the Xerox business and a more coherent look to the non-Xerox side, there is a lot more confidence around, certainly enough with the encouraging statement to suggest profits next year of £125m. Together with the 8.2 per cent yield, that should be strong enough support even without the bid rumours.

Bank of Ireland

announces that with effect

from close of business

on 26th January 1982

its Base Rate for lending

is reduced from

14½% to 14%

per annum



Bank of Ireland

Allied Irish Banks Limited

INTEREST RATE CHANGE

Allied Irish Banks Ltd. announce that with effect from close of business on 25th January 1982 the Base Rate for advances is reduced from 14½% to 14% p.a.

Allied Irish Banks Limited  
64/66 Coleman Street  
London EC2R 5AL

Barlow Unger, a commentator on the American retailing scene said: "Now, at last, it's cheaper for Americans to eat at home!"

By comparison, British retailers have been cautious in their approach to generics, some possibly reluctant to precipitate an all out "generics war". Carrefour and Fine Fare have been the most willing exponents of the concept but the Tesco launch in Scotland could be just a beginning. Allied Suppliers is also experimenting with a "generic store", a form of response to the limited range discounters that has already been seen in the United States.

The pressure upon other retailers will inevitably increase. Many shops within the Mace group have adopted some or all of its 26 "Basic Buy" products, which have started to bring generics into the corner — shop type of outlet.

The author is Lecturer in Marketing at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology.



### Stock Exchange Prices

## Heavy selling of gilts

**ACCOUNT DAYS:** Dealings Began, Jan 25. Dealings End Feb 12. 5 Contango Day, Feb 15. Settlement Day, Feb 22

6 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

TEAMWORK IN CONSTRUCTION  
ENGINEERING, DESIGN  
AND ENERGY-WORLDWIDE  
**TAYLOR  
WOODROW**

[illegible]















**DEATHS**  
On January 24, 1982, at his home, 10, St. Andrew's Road, London, N.W.11, after a long illness, Mr. John William Smith, aged 78, formerly of the Royal Air Force, died. He was the husband of Mrs. Mary Smith, nee Jones, and the father of Mrs. Margaret Smith, nee Brown, and Mr. John Smith, nee Brown. He was buried in the churchyard of St. Andrew's Church, London, N.W.11, on January 26, 1982.

**BIRTHS**  
On January 24, 1982, at the Royal Free Hospital, London, N.W.3, a son, Mr. John William Smith, aged 78, formerly of the Royal Air Force, died. He was the husband of Mrs. Mary Smith, nee Jones, and the father of Mrs. Margaret Smith, nee Brown, and Mr. John Smith, nee Brown. He was buried in the churchyard of St. Andrew's Church, London, N.W.11, on January 26, 1982.

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**PERSONAL COLUMNS**

**WORLD LEADERS**  
In the world of politics, the focus is on the upcoming elections in the United States. The candidates are running on a platform of economic growth and social stability. The results will have a significant impact on the global economy.

**SKI SNOWBALL**  
Our self-catering holiday stays at £59.95 per week. Our accommodation is in a beautiful location, with stunning views of the snow-capped mountains. The facilities are top-notch, and the service is excellent. Book now to secure your spot.

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**MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS**  
JACQUES SAMUEL  
PIANOS  
JANUARY SALE  
London's largest selection of new and second-hand pianos. Special offers on all instruments. Contact us for more details.

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON**  
SECRETARIAL APPOINTMENTS  
(a) PART-TIME & (b) FULL-TIME  
For Head of Department, Secretary, and other secretarial positions. Applications invited from experienced professionals.

**FLAT SHARING**  
Flatmates - 3/5/7/9/11/13/15/17/19/21/23/25/27/29/31/33/35/37/39/41/43/45/47/49/51/53/55/57/59/61/63/65/67/69/71/73/75/77/79/81/83/85/87/89/91/93/95/97/99/101/103/105/107/109/111/113/115/117/119/121/123/125/127/129/131/133/135/137/139/141/143/145/147/149/151/153/155/157/159/161/163/165/167/169/171/173/175/177/179/181/183/185/187/189/191/193/195/197/199/201/203/205/207/209/211/213/215/217/219/221/223/225/227/229/231/233/235/237/239/241/243/245/247/249/251/253/255/257/259/261/263/265/267/269/271/273/275/277/279/281/283/285/287/289/291/293/295/297/299/301/303/305/307/309/311/313/315/317/319/321/323/325/327/329/331/333/335/337/339/341/343/345/347/349/351/353/355/357/359/361/363/365/367/369/371/373/375/377/379/381/383/385/387/389/391/393/395/397/399/401/403/405/407/409/411/413/415/417/419/421/423/425/427/429/431/433/435/437/439/441/443/445/447/449/451/453/455/457/459/461/463/465/467/469/471/473/475/477/479/481/483/485/487/489/491/493/495/497/499/501/503/505/507/509/511/513/515/517/519/521/523/525/527/529/531/533/535/537/539/541/543/545/547/549/551/553/555/557/559/561/563/565/567/569/571/573/575/577/579/581/583/585/587/589/591/593/595/597/599/601/603/605/607/609/611/613/615/617/619/621/623/625/627/629/631/633/635/637/639/641/643/645/647/649/651/653/655/657/659/661/663/665/667/669/671/673/675/677/679/681/683/685/687/689/691/693/695/697/699/701/703/705/707/709/711/713/715/717/719/721/723/725/727/729/731/733/735/737/739/741/743/745/747/749/751/753/755/757/759/761/763/765/767/769/771/773/775/777/779/781/783/785/787/789/791/793/795/797/799/801/803/805/807/809/811/813/815/817/819/821/823/825/827/829/831/833/835/837/839/841/843/845/847/849/851/853/855/857/859/861/863/865/867/869/871/873/875/877/879/881/883/885/887/889/891/893/895/897/899/901/903/905/907/909/911/913/915/917/919/921/923/925/927/929/931/933/935/937/939/941/943/945/947/949/951/953/955/957/959/961/963/965/967/969/971/973/975/977/979/981/983/985/987/989/991/993/995/997/999/1001/1003/1005/1007/1009/1011/1013/1015/1017/1019/1021/1023/1025/1027/1029/1031/1033/1035/1037/1039/1041/1043/1045/1047/1049/1051/1053/1055/1057/1059/1061/1063/1065/1067/1069/1071/1073/1075/1077/1079/1081/1083/1085/1087/1089/1091/1093/1095/1097/1099/1101/1103/1105/1107/1109/1111/1113/1115/1117/1119/1121/1123/1125/1127/1129/1131/1133/1135/1137/1139/1141/1143/1145/1147/1149/1151/1153/1155/1157/1159/1161/1163/1165/1167/1169/1171/1173/1175/1177/1179/1181/1183/1185/1187/1189/1191/1193/1195/1197/1199/1201/1203/1205/1207/1209/1211/1213/1215/1217/1219/1221/1223/1225/1227/1229/1231/1233/1235/1237/1239/1241/1243/1245/1247/1249/1251/1253/1255/1257/1259/1261/1263/1265/1267/1269/1271/1273/1275/1277/1279/1281/1283/1285/1287/1289/1291/1293/1295/1297/1299/1301/1303/1305/1307/1309/1311/1313/1315/1317/1319/1321/1323/1325/1327/1329/1331/1333/1335/1337/1339/1341/1343/1345/1347/1349/1351/1353/1355/1357/1359/1361/1363/1365/1367/1369/1371/1373/1375/1377/1379/1381/1383/1385/1387/1389/1391/1393/1395/1397/1399/1401/1403/1405/1407/1409/1411/1413/1415/1417/1419/1421/1423/1425/1427/1429/1431/1433/1435/1437/1439/1441/1443/1445/1447/1449/1451/1453/1455/1457/1459/1461/1463/1465/1467/1469/1471/1473/1475/1477/1479/1481/1483/1485/1487/1489/1491/1493/1495/1497/1499/1501/1503/1505/1507/1509/1511/1513/1515/1517/1519/1521/1523/1525/1527/1529/1531/1533/1535/1537/1539/1541/1543/1545/1547/1549/1551/1553/1555/1557/1559/1561/1563/1565/1567/1569/1571/1573/1575/1577/1579/1581/1583/1585/1587/1589/1591/1593/1595/1597/1599/1601/1603/1605/1607/1609/1611/1613/1615/1617/1619/1621/1623/1625/1627/1629/1631/1633/1635/1637/1639/1641/1643/1645/1647/1649/1651/1653/1655/1657/1659/1661/1663/1665/1667/1669/1671/1673/1675/1677/1679/1681/1683/1685/1687/1689/1691/1693/1695/1697/1699/1701/1703/1705/1707/1709/1711/1713/1715/1717/1719/1721/1723/1725/1727/1729/1731/1733/1735/1737/1739/1741/1743/1745/1747/1749/1751/1753/1755/1757/1759/1761/1763/1765/1767/1769/1771/1773/1775/1777/1779/1781/1783/1785/1787/1789/1791/1793/1795/1797/1799/1801/1803/1805/1807/1809/1811/1813/1815/1817/1819/1821/1823/1825/1827/1829/1831/1833/1835/1837/1839/1841/1843/1845/1847/1849/1851/1853/1855/1857/1859/1861/1863/1865/1867/1869/1871/1873/1875/1877/1879/1881/1883/1885/1887/1889/1891/1893/1895/1897/1899/1901/1903/1905/1907/1909/1911/1913/1915/1917/1919/1921/1923/1925/1927/1929/1931/1933/1935/1937/1939/1941/1943/1945/1947/1949/1951/1953/1955/1957/1959/1961/1963/1965/1967/1969/1971/1973/1975/1977/1979/1981/1983/1985/1987/1989/1991/1993/1995/1997/1999/2001/2003/2005/2007/2009/2011/2013/2015/2017/2019/2021/2023/2025/2027/2029/2031/2033/2035/2037/2039/2041/2043/2045/2047/2049/2051/2053/2055/2057/2059/2061/2063/2065/2067/2069/2071/2073/2075/2077/2079/2081/2083/2085/2087/2089/2091/2093/2095/2097/2099/2101/2103/2105/2107/2109/2111/2113/2115/2117/2119/2121/2123/2125/2127/2129/2131/2133/2135/2137/2139/2141/2143/2145/2147/2149/2151/2153/2155/2157/2159/2161/2163/2165/2167/2169/2171/2173/2175/2177/2179/2181/2183/2185/2187/2189/2191/2193/2195/2197/2199/2201/2203/2205/2207/2209/2211/2213/2215/2217/2219/2221/22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# Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

## BBC 1

9.05 For Schools. Colleges: The Catalans. 9.35 French conversation. 9.55 Spanish conversation. 10.10 Look and Read. 10.35 The English Language at work. 11.00 With Captain Cook to Australia. 11.17 Television Club. 11.38 Shakespeare in Perspective: Julius Caesar. 12.05 The Future for Industry? 12.30 News. 1.00 Noon with Richard Williams and Maura Stuart. 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only). Financial report and news headlines with sub-titles. 1.00 Pebble Mill at One includes the item that illustrates the exploits of explorers, Spirit of Adventure. 1.45 Bod and the Kite narrated by John Le Mesurier and Maggie Henderson (r). 2.00 You and I. For the very young. 2.15 For Schools. Colleges: How a pop song is recorded. 2.40 Preparing a television programme. 3.00 Interval. 3.10 Tomos a Tiew. A Welsh comedy series. 3.40 So You Want to Stop Smoking. Practical advice on beating the addiction (r). 3.53 Regional news (not London).

## BBC 2

11.00 Play School. For the under fives. 11.25 Close-down. 3.55 Girl in a Glider. With 16-year-old Julie. 12.00 Mountford as she nears her first solo flight (r).  
  
John Stonehouse: BBC 2 8.20pm

## ITV LONDON

9.35 For Schools: Looking After Young. 9.53 What children think of themselves. 10.18 Elementary Maths. 10.35 Macabre: Part three. 11.03 Basic arithmetic. 11.22 The Battle of Hastings. 11.38 German conversation. 12.00 Button Moon. Puppet space adventures for the very young. 12.10 Let's Pretend: Model making for the young. 12.30 The Sullivan. Adventures of an Australian family during World War Two. 1.00 News. 1.20 Thames news. 1.30 Take the High Road. Serial about life on a highland estate. 2.00 After Noon Plus. Mary Berry with some Italian recipes. 2.45 Born and Bred. Stephen Berge and Dennis Tinsley visit Venice in the company of film-makers Cynthia (r). 3.45 Welcome Back, Kotter. American high school comedy starring John Travolta and Gabe Kaplan. Form master Kotter returns to the one of his pupils is promoted to a higher class. But the boy doesn't want to leave his chums and they don't want him to leave either.

## Radio 4

6.00 News Briefing. 6.10 Farming Today. 6.30 Today. 8.35 Discussion in Parliament. 9.00 News. 9.05 Tuesday Call: 01-560 4411. 10.00 News. 10.02 From our own Correspondent. 10.30 Daily Service. 10.45 Morning Story: "Mary's Birth" by Fiona Barr. 11.00 News. 11.05 Play: "A Gaiety Girl" by Geraldine Aron. 11.55 Wildlife. Listeners' questions. 12.00 News. 12.02 You and Yours. 12.27 Quota. "Unquote Nigel Rees and other favourite quotations and identify others."

## Radio 3

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News. 7.05 Morning Concert. Dvorak, Schumann, Paganini, Liszt. 8.00 News. 8.05 Morning Concert (continued). Beethoven, Mozart, Haydn. 9.00 News. 9.05 This Week's Composer. Bruch. 10.05 The Baroque Tradition. Chamber music recital: Telemann, Bach, Marais, Telemann. 11.05 Schumann and Liszt. Piano recital. 12.10 Midday Concert. Part 1: Shostakovich, Gieseler. 1.00 News. 1.05 Six Continents. 1.25 Midday Concert. Part 2: Prokofiev.

## Radio 2

5.00 Steve Jones. 7.30 Terry Wogan. 10.00 Jimmy Young. 12.00 Gloria Hunniford. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 4.00 David Hamilton. 5.45 News and Sport. 6.00 John Dunbar. 8.00 The Golden Age of Hollywood. (new series). 1. Warner Brothers and the Beginning of Sound. 1.00 Listen to the Band. 1.30 The Organist. 1.50 The London Palladium. 2.00 Brian Marshaw from midnight. 1.00 Truckers' Hour. 2.00 You and the Night and the Music.

## Radio 1

5.00 As Radio 2. 7.00 Mollie Read. 9.00 Simon Bates. 11.30 Dave Lee Travis. 2.00 Paul Burnett. 3.30 Steve Wright. 5.00 The World Today. 7.00 World Talkshow. 8.00 David Jackson. 10.00 John Peel. 12.00 Close.

## World Service

BBC World Service can be received in Western Europe on medium wave (800-1000 kHz) and on short wave (15-20 MHz). Four main services: 1. 6.00 World News. 2. 6.00 World News. 3. 6.00 World News. 4. 6.00 World News. 5. 6.00 World News. 6. 6.00 World News. 7. 6.00 World News. 8. 6.00 World News. 9. 6.00 World News. 10. 6.00 World News. 11. 6.00 World News. 12. 6.00 World News. 13. 6.00 World News. 14. 6.00 World News. 15. 6.00 World News. 16. 6.00 World News. 17. 6.00 World News. 18. 6.00 World News. 19. 6.00 World News. 20. 6.00 World News. 21. 6.00 World News. 22. 6.00 World News. 23. 6.00 World News. 24. 6.00 World News. 25. 6.00 World News. 26. 6.00 World News. 27. 6.00 World News. 28. 6.00 World News. 29. 6.00 World News. 30. 6.00 World News. 31. 6.00 World News. 32. 6.00 World News. 33. 6.00 World News. 34. 6.00 World News. 35. 6.00 World News. 36. 6.00 World News. 37. 6.00 World News. 38. 6.00 World News. 39. 6.00 World News. 40. 6.00 World News. 41. 6.00 World News. 42. 6.00 World News. 43. 6.00 World News. 44. 6.00 World News. 45. 6.00 World News. 46. 6.00 World News. 47. 6.00 World News. 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